

House of Old Art : A Hidden Treasure

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

SITUATED ON a busy corner in Abdali, adjacent to a doctor's clinic, is the house of old art. Not many know of this museum-like place since it is so carefully nestled. The main part of it is made up of basically one large room decorated with silver jewelry on its walls, and old brass and copper coffee pots which peep at you from wooden shelves. On the floor guests have the chance to inspect ancient plates, and multi-colored hand-woven carpets from all over the Arab world.

Even the doors are not left unattended; hung on both sides are traditional dresses showing off their intricate and elaborate embroidery. If you go to the right you will find yourself in another room; mysterious and dimly-lit. Odd pieces of cloth, which originally came from traditional dresses, are stacked on top of each other. But this room's main attraction lies in its myriads of old and heavy pans and pots. These are not typical everyday pans, rather, they are old heavy skillets which were used in preparing huge meals by our forefathers.

On leaving this room and to your left is the smallest room of all. An 86-year-old man sits in front of a large wooden desk laboriously restoring antique pieces of jewelry. Lutfi Sayegh is the proud owner of this unique "house".

Every now and then he is interrupted by a peddling merchant eager to show him his bounty gathered from villages and camps. Sometimes it is a woman farmer wishing to sell a piece of silver jewelry handed down to her by her mother. After the usual greeting, and exchanged jokes both parties commence the bargaining business.

Ever since he can remember, Abu George, as he is known to most, has been a collector of old and modern pieces of jewelry, carpets, pots, pans, and everything else you can think of. But it was not until the death of his wife that he decided to let the public share with him his collection. "In 1975 I found myself quite lonely. My wife, who was a school mistress, had died and I was retired. I was chief clerk and chief accountant for the Social Welfare Department during the British Mandate for 25 years. I still get my pension from them." He recollects how when the Arab-Israeli war started in 1948, he and his family moved to Jordan. After some time he thought he should return to his town and

took his family back. However, conditions got worse after the 1967 war and so it was back to Jordan for him. By then he was working for the United Nations as an administrator.

Both Abu George and his wife believed that education was the most precious gift they could give to their children. His son, George, has a medical clinic right next to the shop and Ahmad, his second son, is an architect. His daughters, Hala

lunch at one of his children's houses. There, he is surrounded by his grandchildren who enjoy hearing stories about the past. In order not to gain weight from the appetising feasts prepared for him by his step daughters Abu George exercises by walking and swimming every day. Thus, he is tall and robust with the spirit and mind of a young man.

Abu George is known to many foreigners as he gives lec-

Palestine, education started to pave the way for the future and consequently, people held jobs related to their studies.

On a recent visit to this 'House', Abu George gave me a tour around the premises and briefed me on the nature of his 'objets d'Art'. Silver jewelry, he says (like necklaces, bracelets and others), come from all over the world but a large number comes from the Middle East. In the past, Arab women wore

eltry represents either part of the dowry, or a father's gift to his daughter after he receives the dowry. The bride is the sole owner of these gifts and she can use them to adorn herself or to face financing difficulties.

A woman sometimes kept her marriage contract in her amulet which she constantly wore. "Silver jewelry was fashionable among Bedouin and peasant women of Palestine and Jordan during the first half of this century and even earlier," Abu George said that since Jordan is a gateway to three continents, jewelry of this age has been influenced by other civilizations.

Jewelry found in Arab Muslim countries share a close resemblance in terms of their workmanship. Mr Sayegh laments that most of his clients are foreigners. It appears the Arabs have lost interest in old silver jewelry when gold became in fashion during the first World War.

A lot of the silver jewelry that one sees hanging against the black background in Abu George's "house" is incorporated with multi-colored stones. Abu George sometimes likes to put pieces of old and new silver together, but he says that they are not as popular as the authentic old jewelry. Amber, agate, and coral are abundantly used in this type of jewelry. Mr. Sayegh explained to me how to distinguish between real and false amber. If real amber is lit it gives off an incense-like scent. The different shades of amber also reveal whether it comes from Europe or the Middle East. In the first it is of light colour and the latter is darker. On the origins of these stones Abu George says that the authentic amber is the gum of giant trees that was buried millions of years ago and petrified in the ground. It is found chiefly in the southern shores of the Baltic and was reported from Yeman, Persia and Russia. It is expensive and the price of an amber necklace can easily reach JD 100 because it is rare. Coral is basically a hard found in reefs and "warm sea". Like amber, agate is found in the ground. It is a stone which comes from Yeman, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

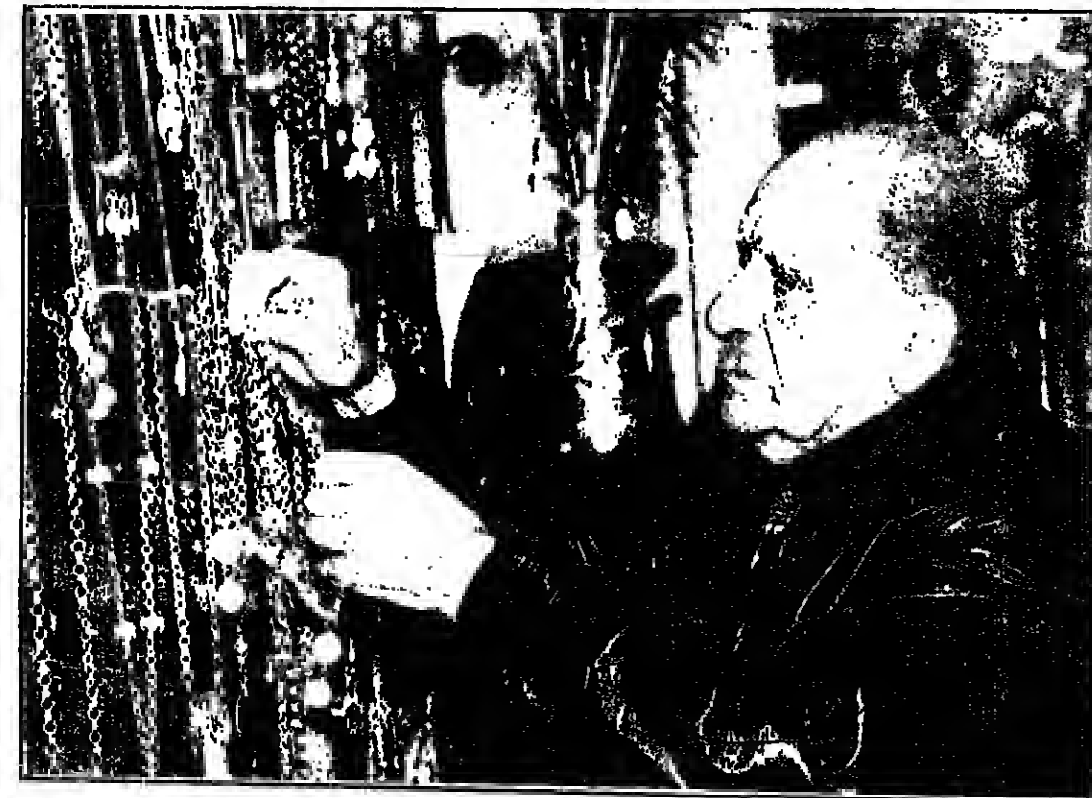
Abu George says he serves two purposes: he shows a person's taste, his personality, and social status. Second, it is a treasure that can be used in time of need without loss of currency, which is up or down every minute, says.

Examples of those coins are the 1780 Maria Theresa coins from which necklaces have been made and are found shimmering against the velvety black walls of Abu George's place. Jewelry was also a sign of social status, and people competed with each other to show off their jewelry. Abu George says a woman in this part of the world usually acquired her first piece of jewelry when she got married. The jewelry not only because of its ornamental value, but also for safe-keeping. Because jewelry can be carried easily, a woman wore all her belongings guaranteeing its safety. A Middle Eastern woman, then, could be accurately described as a walking bank, for she collected coins from all over the world, piercing holes in each and threading them together with a silver chain worn around her neck or waist.

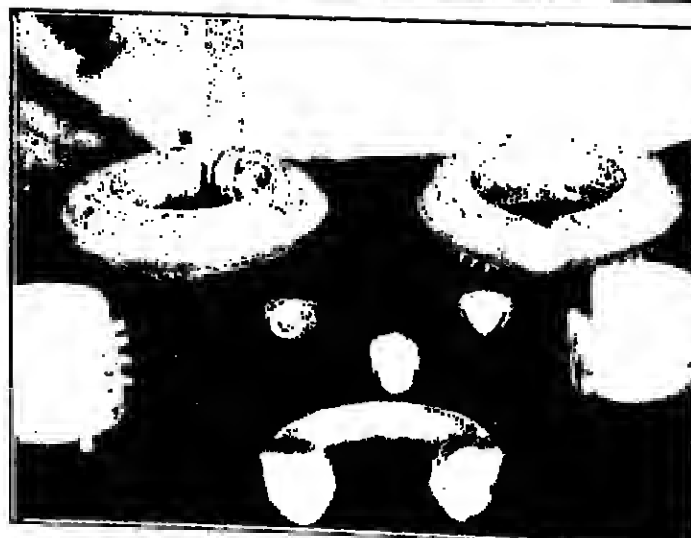
Asked if there was any relevance to his name Sayegh, which means goldsmith, and his hobby, Abu George says that in some cases a family surname was associated with its profession. He says that in the last century his grandfathers and most of the Christians during the Turkish rule were merchants. After the British occupation of

tures on jewelry and Arabic art to the European community in Jordan. The sad thing, though, is that not many locals know about this House of Old Art. The major reason being that the place is well hidden!

His five children are now grown up with families of their own. Abu George lives with his son but retains his independence in the two rooms allocated to him. Each day he has



Lutfi Sayegh inspects his unique collection of silver jewelry.



studied in France, Leon at the American University in Cairo, and Nadia in Jerusalem.

Abu George maintains that as one reaches the age of retirement he should not sit idle. Old people, he asserts, should be productive and should keep themselves busy. With this notion in mind, he opened his little artifacts shop in 1975 not only for commercial reasons, but "also to show Arab art," he says.

"Our art is evident in the way we dress and live." His five children are now grown up with families of their own. Abu George lives with his son but retains his independence in the two rooms allocated to him. Each day he has

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Hunting for work

Jordan's unemployed may have a better chance of getting a job after the recent government regulations. The Labour Minister expects about 25,000 jobs to be available before the end of this year, but opponents have challenged the decisions and will try their best to abort them.

See stories on pages 4 & 5



The decision is final
Interview with Labour Minister, Dr Obeidat page 4



The long way to recovery--Petra Bank's Bassam Atari
Interview, page 11



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Hussein-Fahd talks continue

AMMAN (Star) - His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Wednesday continued their talks on the possibilities of convening an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese problem, and the Soviet-Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied Arab territories, as well as recent developments in the region.

King Hussein arrived in Riyadh earlier on Tuesday and was received at King Khalid Airport by King Fahd, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, and senior Saudi officials.

The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Audch, and Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasem.

Reports from Snudi Arubin say that the outcome of the talks between King Hussein and King Fahd could determine whether an Arab summit, mostly called for by Jarkui and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), will be convened.



Sharaf calls for Arab investment in East Europe

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

JORDAN'S AMBASSADOR to West Germany, Sharif Fawaz Sharaf, has emphasised the necessity of looking into the possibilities of investing Arab capital in Eastern European countries which have qualified and well-trained workforce and will witness great economic booms due to the recent changes they have undergone.

Sharif Sharaf called on Arab countries to send high-level delegations to Eastern Europe to meet with its leaders and discuss with them the future Arab-East European relations.

In a statement to The Star,



Sherif Fawaz Sharaf

Sharif Sharaf said he has informed senior officials of the developments in Eastern Europe and urged the Arab League to study the changes in Eastern European countries with view to deciding on the best means of promoting relations with them.

On the record

● Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Mr Abdul Karim Al-Dughmi will head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the General Conference of the Afro-Asian Organisation which will be held in Ghana on 10 March.

● Minister of Water and Irrigation Dr Dawood Khalef will attend the third meeting of the Studies Committee of the World Health Organisation which will be held in Rabat between 17-21 March.

● Jordan will participate in the Arab Conference on Labour which will take place in Cairo between 6-13 March. Jordan's delegation to the conference will include representatives of the private sector and will be headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour Mr Saleh Al-Khasawneh.

● A meeting between Jordan and Saudi Arabia will be held in Jeddah on Sunday 18 February to discuss means of promoting co-operation between the two countries in the fields of transport and aviation. Mr Jamal Balqa, director of the Civil Aviation Department, will head Jordan's delegation.

● Minister of Education Dr Mohammed Handan will head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the General Conference of UNESCO and the International Conference on Education which will convene in Thailand on 13 March.

Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husban

● Rumours circulating at the House have it that Minister of Tourism Mr Abdul Karim Al-Kabari has resigned from the government. Sources in the parliament said that no action on Mr Kabari's resignation will be taken before the expected reshuffle of the cabinet.

● More than 20 deputies will speak during next Saturday's House session which will discuss the influx of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories and the threat it poses to Jordan. A number of deputies told The Star that they will demand that the government provides them with a complete report on the issue.

● The Finance Committee has proposed a number of amendments to the tax law.

● Spokesman of the Muslim bloc, Dr Abdul Latif Arabiyah, has said that the bloc members are not negotiating joining the government with Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

● Palestine and the Occupied Territories Affairs Committee will meet with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Mr Saleh Mas'ada, to discuss the problems faced by the Palestinian refugees in Jordan, especially in obtaining passport.

Deputy Leith Shbeilat

'Lack of co-ordination has lead to unacceptable performance'

By a Star Staff Writer

ISLAMIST MEMBERS of the Lower House of Parliament have fallen short of meeting the aspirations of their constituencies, according to Amman deputy Leith Shbeilat. But despite the disappointment at the performance of these deputies, Shbeilat believes the Jordanian public still sees Islam as the solution to all their problems.

"Our Islamic thinking is capable of leading the people and requires us to rise to its level. Yet," he says, "one does not qualify to be a leader of the people by being religious only, as knowledge of the various aspects of life is essential for any successful leadership."

Declining to directly comment on the performance of members of the Muslim bloc at the House, the outspoken deputy said it is deceptive not to tell the people that the promises made to them cannot be immediately delivered, and "it is an indicator of our incapability to lead if we did not know before the parliamentary elections what we know now."

In an interview with The Star at his office at Jordan's Engineers Association which he currently heads, Shbeilat said there is no such thing as an Islamic movement at the Lower House of Parliament, adding that it was not credible for some deputies to say that they represent the Islamic movement in the country in general while in reality they represent a movement that has its own name.

"I criticise those who went under the name of the Islamic movement while they have their clear name. Such an act leads the public to believe that major changes have taken place within the various Muslim groups and that there are efforts towards

unifying all Islamic forces while this is not happening," he said.

Revealing that he is studying the possibility of establishing his own party, Shbeilat said that there is not any kind of co-ordination between him and the Muslim bloc. "They do not co-ordinate among themselves and that is the thing that I constantly criticise them for," he said.

An experienced parliamentarian who first became deputy in 1984, Shbeilat said the performance of the parliament in general is "unacceptable" and warned that the failure of the parliament to achieve the aspirations of the people will be conducive to a "great catastrophe" and its members will be subjected to severe scrutiny by the people. He said he sees no point for him in remaining in the parliament if it continues to operate in this way.

The reasons behind the poor performance of the parliament according to Shbeilat is the absence of political groupings and the lack of co-ordination among the existing ones.

Shbeilat voiced his total rejection of the national charter saying that the constitution defines the mechanism of introducing new laws. The charter "could be treated as a draft law to regulate the political life in the country and the parliament is the venue for issuing such laws," he said. Calling for an eventual change



Leith Shbeilat

in the style of government Shbeilat reiterated his demand for a government that enjoys wide popular support in addition to that of the deputies so that it would have the self-confidence to bring about structural changes in the society.

He acknowledged that the gov-

ernment did meet some of the demands made by the deputies but argued that the government would not have been so co-operative had it not been for the existence of the parliament and its strong composition.

Commenting on the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied Arab territories, and the danger it poses to Jordan, the Islam-

situation.

Shbeilat called for introducing drastic changes in the country's defence policy by arming the whole population with light arms instead of spending on heavy weapons which will not be "effective in defending the country against any aggression."

"We have become bankrupt by spending on heavy arms and we are now weaker than ever in comparison with our enemy," he said.

"A country as small as Jordan which has the longest line of confrontation with the enemy will not be able to defend itself alone and we should do what we can to achieve some kind of unity with other Arab states," he said.

He said proper "education and upbringing of the citizens and faith in the government" will ensure that these arms will not be used for the wrong purpose or in the wrong direction. "Our enemy has armed its population and they are not using these arms against one another so why shouldn't we be able to do the same," Shbeilat argued.

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Labour Ministry's recent decisions

'Not a storm in a tea cup'

The Minister of Labour decided on 8 February 1990 to stop issuing work permits to foreign workers in all professions. He then retracted to exclude certain sectors mainly those working in agriculture. The decision has created controversy as the majority of Jordan's 225,000 foreign workers may have to leave in the coming two years. But Labour Minister Dr Qaseem Obaidat expects at least 20,000 of Jordan's 120,000 unemployed to be hired before the end of this year. He assures his opponents that his decision is not "a storm in a tea cup" but an irreversible government policy.

AMMAN (Star) - Jordan's Minister of Labour Dr Qaseem Obaidat is determined to go all the way in applying the recent ministry's directives of not renewing work permits to foreign workers in Jordan, unless they fall in the categories exempted from these regulations.

"These are final decisions," he told The Star on Wednesday, "and there will be no turning back... not now and not in the future because they are dire demands of the Jordanian working class and all job seekers in the country."

He said the decisions are part of a long-term plan to ease the problem of unemployment in Jordan, which is currently running at a rate of 18 per cent. He added that these decisions are final and not, as some employers believe, "a storm in a tea-cup."

Priority, he added, is for the Jordanian worker in all sectors of production.

Dr Obaidat revealed that a national survey of the workforce in the country is being conducted by the ministry through its employment offices around the Kingdom to determine each sector's local and foreign labour requirements.

Currently, the ministry's decisions include all sectors with the exception of the agricultural, cleaning and household sectors. "This is not our singular decision," the minister said. "It is a general government policy towards putting an end to the problem of unemployment."

The Minister said employers must know that the "honey-moon" is over and that soon Jordanian Labour Association will participate in formulating new directives and regulations organising the labour market in Jordan. These will include setting a minimum wage floor and enforcing the eight-hour work hours law. "We must find ways to put a limit on the number of foreign laborers in Jordan because they compete unfairly with Jordanians," Dr Obaidat said.

Commenting on the present

disagreement between the ministry and the bakeries' owners and the threat of a strike by bakeries all over the Kingdom, Dr Obaidat said the country is prepared for that possibility and that he was assured by officials that the country's four automated bakeries will be able to handle any deficits in bread supply for any period of time.

He stressed that bakeries were excluded from the recent decisions, but that the bone of contention was over the work permit fees which foreign workers employed by the local bakeries must pay.

"This is a violation of the Labour Law and no one can compromise on the issue of fees payments whatever the excuses... our decision is irreversible," he says.

The ministry's decision have created unsettling controversy and were received with mixed reactions. While the General Association of Labour Unions wel-

comed the new regulations, many private sector establishments and employers of foreign labour denounced them. The owners of local bakeries had met with the minister and failed to get an exemption of work permits fees - an old issue of conflict between them and the ministry. On Wednesday the owners of local bakeries called

for a special meeting to discuss the situation. They were expected to call for a strike if the Minister did not yield to their demands.

As to current fees which foreign workers have to pay annually to renew their permits, Dr Obaidat confirmed earlier reports that a study was underway by the ministry to raise these fees.

He said the study will be concluded later this month before being approved by the cabinet and later referred to the Lower House of Parliament. "Jordanian labour must gradually replace imported labour in all sectors," he said. "Our regulations will not affect the country's stability because we aim at creating new work opportunities which will in the end serve the interests of all."

The Labour Minister rejected threats of industrial action by the 5,500 Egyptian workers in the bakeries sector, who are protesting the recent measures. "We are enforcing the Jordan Labour Law, which does not contradict with any agreements which we have with the Arab co-operation Council (ACC) or neighbouring countries," he said.

He added that the ministry will go to any extent in enforcing these regulations including deportations of workers on strike, because their presence in Jordan conflicts with present laws. "They simply have no valid work permits," he said.

Dr Obaidat said assertions that Jordan's unemployment problem is structural and that foreign labour is not competing with Jordanian workers are false statements being used by employers to justify their continued use of foreign labour.

He added that local employers prefer non-Jordanian workers for two reasons: the first is the low wages accepted by foreign workers as opposed to Jordanians and the second is that employers do not abide by legal working hours when it comes to hiring foreign labour. "I wonder how things were run in Jordan 10 years ago when the number of expatriate workers in Jordan was very small," he said. "How did factories, commercial shops, or pri-



Jordanians at an employment office: Forty per cent of the unemployed are holders of certificate (from high school to university degrees) while the rest are mainly skilled and unskilled workers. Dr Obaidat expected the recent measures to help create between 20,000 to 25,000 work opportunities for Jordanians by the end of this year.

val establishments in all sectors function in the past?... I put this question to local employers."

The Minister estimated the number of foreign workers in Jordan at 225,000 while he said the number of Jordanians currently unemployed are 120,000. He said 40 per cent of the unemployed are holders of certificate (from high school to university degrees) while the rest are mainly skilled and unskilled workers. Dr Obaidat expected the recent measures to help create between

20,000 to 25,000 work opportunities for Jordanians by the end of this year. He said deportations of workers not holding valid work permits will begin next month.

Dr Obaidat criticised the local press for not giving the subject of unemployment and the recent measures the attention they deserve. He called for a national dialogue through the press to reach new formulas and comprehensive solutions to the problems of unemployment.

Ministry calls on unemployed citizens to register their names

Amman (Star)-The Ministry of Labour has called on all unemployed Jordanians to register their names in its employment offices as a first step towards providing them with work opportunities in their fields of work.

Minister of Labour Dr Qaseem Obaidat on Tuesday met with representatives of the various labour unions in the country and reviewed with them the ministry's recent decision to stop issuing work permits to foreign workers in the country.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Labour is holding intensive

meetings with the representatives of labour unions to study with them the best means for providing training and work opportunities for Jordanians.

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15 FEBRUARY 1990

Unemployment
Official figures vary on size of the problem

By a Star Staff Writer

WITH A total Jordanian labour force of 875,000 against 650,000 available opportunities on the job market, structural unemployment in Jordan is 26 per cent. This was one of the conclusions reached by Jordanian researcher Dr Fahd Al-Fanek. He said that 275,000 Jordanians are working outside Jordan, while 150,000 non-Jordanians are presently working in Jordan.

According to these figures, the rate of unemployment is 11.5 per cent of the total Jordanian (able to and seeking to work) labour force, or 15.5 per cent of the total work force in Jordan (including non-Jordanian workers).

Dr Al-Fanek did not agree with an official 8 per cent unemployment rate, which dates back to 1985, arguing that unemployment rises by 5 per cent annually against zero improvement in job opportunities.

Another researcher, Mr Ahmad Al-Nimri, disagreed with the contradicting official unemployment statistics. He cited four different sources giving ambiguous unemployment rates. While experts agree that the rate is over 10 per cent, the Ministry of Finance accepts a figure of only 10 per cent, the Ministry of Planning talks of a rate of 21 per cent, the Ministry of Labour has accepted a range of 14-18 per cent, and one parliamentarian pushed the rate to 25 per cent.

Mr Nimri said the number of non-Jordanian workers in Jordan is also in dispute. He said there are four different figures: 63,050; 260,000; 175,000 and 300,000 workers.

A third researcher, Dr Jawad Al-Anani, estimated the number of unemployed Jordanians at about 65,000. Relying on a 10 per cent unemployment rate and 650,000 total workforce, he defined unemployment as the product of the total population able to work (age 15 to retirement) divided by the total workforce.

Official figures released by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) show a total of 48,328 job applicants through the CSC during 1989. Out of this figure, only 4,227 applicants (8.7 per cent) were recommended for government and public sector jobs. Out of a total of 48,328 applicants, 11,586 were university graduates (5,899 males and 5,687 females), of whom only 2,267 (1,155 males and 1,112 females) were recommended to fill job vacancies.

Out of a total of 48,328 applicants (in 1989), 11,586 were university graduates (5,899 males and 5,687 females), of whom only 2,267 (1,155 males and 1,112 females) were recommended to fill job vacancies.

whom only 151 (121 males and 30 females) were recommended for jobs.

The above CSC statistics show that during 1989, job applicants who remained unemployed were



1,112 females) were recommended to fill job vacancies.

Total community college graduates in 1989 were estimated at 30,196 (6,701 males and 23,495 females), of whom only 1,711 (973 males and 738 females) were recommended for jobs. Applicants with high school certificates numbered 6,546 (3,346 females and 3,200 males), of

9,319 university graduates, 28,485 community college graduates and 6,395 with high school certificates.

Figures available from the Ministry of Labour indicates that total job applicants through the ministry were 102,611, of whom only 4,866 applicants (47.4 per cent) were employed by the ministry. Ministry figures show that

total number of work permits granted to non-Jordanian workers during 1989 were 46,646 permits, of which about 65 per cent (30,969 permits) were given to Egyptian workers.

A study by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), released in November 1987, predicted a 10 per cent unemployment rate in 1990.

The study forecast a total labour force supply of 597,000 workers against a demand for 537,000, thus predicting a surplus of 60,000 workers (or 10 per cent unemployment rate factor).

The distribution of those unemployed, based on their academic qualification, was estimated to be in 1990 as follows: (Total 59,500): less than high

schools 17,499; with high schools certificates 15,482; with community college diploma 12,923; BA or B.Sc graduates 12,114; and those with post-graduates degrees, 1,482.

Based on their professional categories, the distribution of job seekers in 1990 was predicted as follows: (Total 59,500): specialists and technicians 13,532; administrators 119; office work 3,618; sales 744; services 5,450; agriculture 905; production 21,331; and other non-classified labour 13,981.

The study distributed those who are predicted to become unemployed in 1990 (total 59,500) according to the following economic activity: Agriculture 863; mining and basic industries 5,450; electricity and water 2,249; construction 8,996; trade 1,273; transportation and communications 6,640; financial services 2,350; public administration, defense and other services 14,649; and other unclassified 17,030.

Analysis

Statistical surveys usually confine the reasons of unemployment to seven classical reasons. These are shortage of jobs supply, low wages, termination of job by employers, unsuitability of job for field of study, layoffs, health reasons, family disapproval and unsuitable job conditions.

Attempting to institutionalise the above seven causes will not result in a satisfactory research work. These seven causes should not be tailored to fit a particular analysis dealing with a sophisticated unemployment issue.

Jordan's unemployment problem, for instance, is a unique case. The facts of this issue are that the supply of labour force is growing steadily (5 per cent an-

Ministry of Labour figures show that total number of work permits granted to non-Jordanian workers during 1989 were 46,646 permits, of which about 65 per cent (30,969 permits) were given to Egyptian workers.

nual average) against a slow demand. Secondly, Jordan is both an exporter and an importer of labour force. Thirdly, which is the main reason, the participation of the national manpower in total workforce is minimum. This is due to the facts that the percentage of students in various educational stages to the total population is very high, the percentages of children (less than 15) to the population is also high and the rate of women's participation in the labour force is very low.

Many researchers prefer to label the unemployment issue in Jordan as behavioural or structural unemployment. Many of them have used new factors, such as morals, ethics, social class, family name etc, as inputs into the overall unemployment formula. Other researchers argue that getting rid of the non-Jordanian workforce is a bad measure, while others see non-Jordanian workers as the main evil behind unemployment.

Many specialised Jordanians are studying all possible concepts leading to a dynamic resolution to this controversial market. For some researchers, unemployment is one of the causes of political alienations, and the drive-force behind civil disturbances. However, all conclusions agree that the following measures should be implemented to achieve a better balance of forces in Jordan's job market.

- Advancing vocational training.
- Improving the agricultural sector.
- Encouraging the nation to start behaving as a productive society.
- Promoting small business ventures in the country.
- Facilitating license and other administrative procedures.
- Introducing radical changes into the educational system in the country.
- And increasing polytechnic-type institutes and opening workshop courses, exclusive to vocational training disciplines on university premises.

The power of improvisation

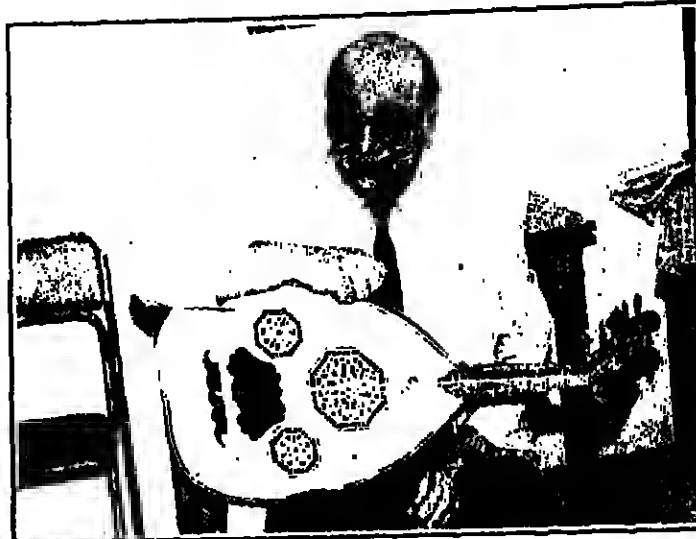
By Carl Lloyd Jones
Special to The Star

THE CLAPPING subsidies. An expectant audience hushes. The bald head of the Iraqi artist Munir Bashir inclines slightly over his lute. Poised. Pensive. Ready to begin his improvisation.

A brief outburst - a cry from the human soul - emanates from the instrument, reaffirming the commanding presence of its master. Longer, more reflective phrases follow, (bending notes, rendering them with weight and significance). Then a tremendous stillness measures the audience. A pause. Strong, energetic passages, tritones, flurries and "Flamenco"-style chords produce great washes of sound.

The extraordinary feat is that all this is entirely spontaneous - an unplanned improvisation ("taqsim") executed without reference to written notes of any kind. Yet he sustains the interest of the audience for an hour and a half. "There is nothing more wonderful than having the freedom to imagine, create and to be transported to a higher plane by music," Munir Bashir says. "I become totally oblivious to everything but the atmosphere created by my music; if I'm enjoying it, then I'm confident that the audience is too."

The audience of the audience inspires and affects the course of



Munir Bashir

an improvisation, which is intended to speak directly to the emotions rather than requiring intellectual analysis. "My concerts are not college lectures," says Bashir. However, he does expect that any "art," be it Beethoven, Mozart or a good film, should command the exclusive attention of the audience. Eating, chatting, or showing verbal appreciation would demonstrate to him only ignorance on the part of the listeners. He recounts with mischievous vivacity the evening

which began with a good friend at the Bedin Opera, but whose persistent cough soon brought the angry ultimatum, "Either you leave or I do!" such was its distracting effect. Munir Bashir currently has a scientific project running to assess the psychological powers of music on the human brain. The capacity of music to make men cry, laugh or sleep was documented by the ancient Greeks and by 10th century Arabic theorists. A Los Angeles doctor

claims to have cured patients using recordings of Bashir's.

"Traditional Arabic music should be preserved and perpetuated in authentic ways," says Bashir, the holder of four doctorates. He studied both piano and cello, yet he still firmly disapproves of the infiltration into Arabic music of Western elements like harmony, dance-band rhythms and western instruments such as the violin. "Each country's music has its own special identity which must not be allowed to merge with the others. We have to retain our peculiar Arabic flavour - Arabic scales, Arabic rhythms, Arabic instruments, and ambience - if we are still to call it Arabic music." Some Arabic composers have mastered western techniques like harmony and orchestration, but are still working in 18th or 19th century idioms which are by now irrelevant, even retarded, because contemporary western composers have moved far ahead of such styles," Bashir says, "the arts reflect the level of culture within a society. We are in need of excellent Arabic 'art' music."

He himself has composed solos, quartets and experimented with electronic music. Neverthe-

less, he believes that improvisation requires greater creative gifts than composition, whose self-consciousness shackles spontaneity. "Even in Beethoven's 5th you can't recreate exactly what Beethoven felt when he composed it. There were no recordings then, so they had to improvise. But the world is changing, and we must change with it," he says. Improvisation now has an exciting place in modern music. Bashir has improvised with performers from all over the world - no pre-conceived and it is this very lack of planning which provides them with what he calls the "freedom to excel."

Bashir believes that it is a duty to teach the music of other cultures to help increase world understanding. He has done much to lift the profile of Arabic music not only through concerts and lectures, but also as a member of various Iraqi, Arab and international music organisations. The Arabic lute is now studied in France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and even in America. He has used the lute for playing Indian, Turkish, Spanish, Latin and Rock music.

Music, he believes, is capable of reaching the most refined level of culture attainable by man; it transcends all ethnic boundaries.

An artist devoted to preserving wildlife

By Sybil Bernier-Hart
Special to The Star

LONDON - Should artists create art for art's sake or only for visual pleasure? The question comes up again with the eye on the new work of Katherine Virgils, which is almost entirely devoted to themes of conservation and environment.

Asked if she saw herself as a committed artist, Katherine replied in the affirmative, adding, "My work, particularly in the past two years, has more and more got a message to it. It goes beyond the image." The message, she added, is "what we can learn from other cultures, how we can either integrate them into our own or sort of use the power of their symbols and myths."

The artist, who began painting

with mystical and spiritual influences, found her greatest inspiration after a visit to India. Visiting the remote areas of Rajasthan, and especially the wild and wooded tiger sanctuary of Ranthambore, inspired Katherine's latest series of works on paper. The experience transported her in a world of spirituality and life close to nature.

As the result of that trip, Katherine has been painting on themes of endangered species and imperilled environment, specifically good vs. bad in architecture. In her last exhibition at

London's Thumb Gallery, she donated the entire proceeds of a large painting to the World Wildlife Fund. Katherine prepares and blends her own paints and dyes using them on a variety of materials, particularly paper of different kinds chosen from across the world. These are then combined with bronze pigments and gold or silver leaf. The result usually is surfaces glowing with intense colours.

The latest series is dominated by paintings of tigers and tigers in abstract, figurative and my-

thological versions.

"I went to India to look at its architecture, its forts and medieval architecture. Then I became interested in the Moghul architecture, and the synthesis of Islam and Hinduism," she said in an interview. "I was sketching and drawing in Rajasthan, and the motifs like the tiger came out of visits to the fort of Ranthambore, which is set in the middle of a tiger sanctuary and is well over a thousand years old."

She believes that "a lot of 20th century art has lost spirituality... a lot of it is very soulless" while



Artist Katherine Virgils

much spirituality still survives in the developing world.

"That's one of things that set Indian culture apart, it is so ancient and yet it is living, whereas a lot of our cultural traditions don't really have any depth," she said.

She stresses that in drawing to Eastern influences for her art, "I'm not trying to take from the culture or society I'm looking at. I'm actually trying to give something back." In a previous show, she donated part of the proceeds to Mother Theresa. This time the proceeds from the sale of Ranthambore Society for its work in villages that surrounded Ranthambore National Park.

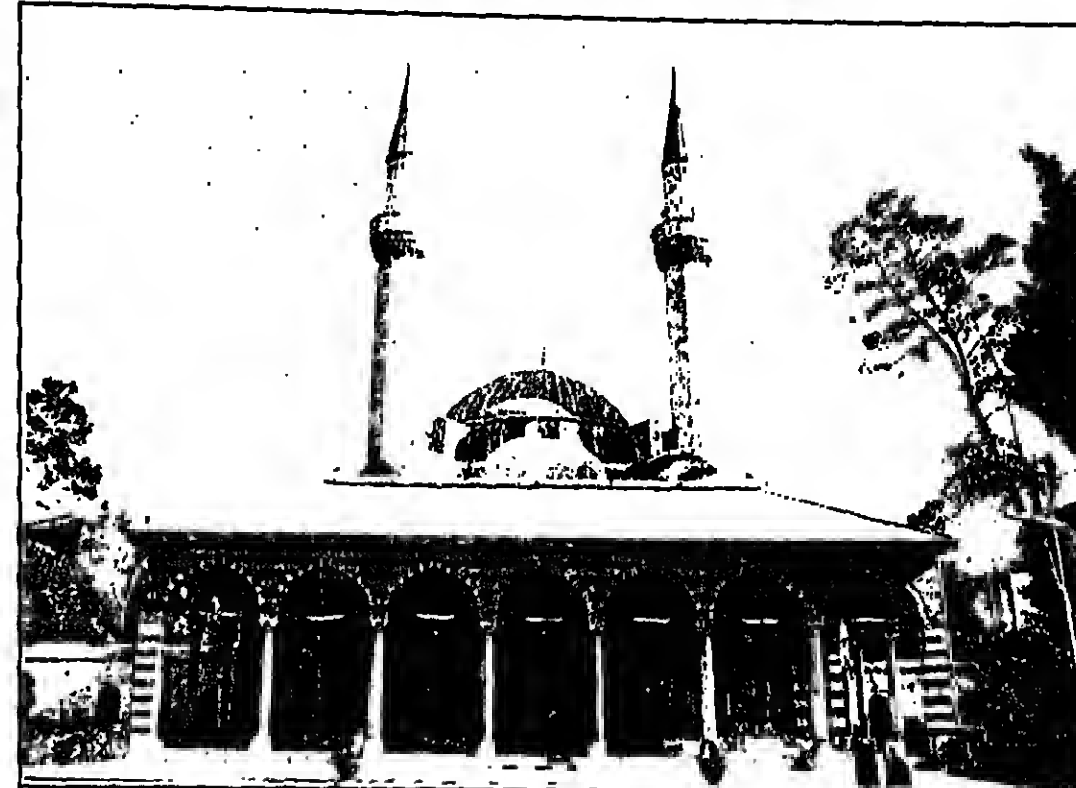
Katherine plans soon to visit southern India for a series of wildlife paintings. She has decided which animals or animals will feature in her new series. But, she says, she has decided to work more and more in liaison with the World Wildlife Fund and other conservation authorities.

15 FEBRUARY 1990

Old Turkey's landmarks abroad

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

Turkish monuments, remnants of a once-influential and powerful empire, dot a vast landscape from Asia to Europe. These have now been documented in an official book published by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The Suleymanieh Mosque in Damascus, built around 1554-1555 and (left) the exterior of the Alaca Mosque in Yugoslavia, built around 1822.



the Sahara and Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen on the Arabian peninsula. Yenisehirlioglu cites 22 different regions, having counted Cyprus twice, first as the Turkish-held north and then as the Greek-dominated south and Jerusalem as a separate entity.

But, once one gets over this initial technicality, the rest be-

comes a fascinating read. The book is the result of a project the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara launched in December 1987 to document Ottoman architectural remains outside Turkey. The initiative was not without its hurdles; some of Turkey's former colonies simply refused to let monuments be documented or photographed.

The Ottoman empire flowered after the Turkish capture of Istanbul (Constantinople) in 1453 and was at its largest shortly before the disastrous treaty of Carlowitz with Austria and its allies. The decline of the empire then began.

For the purposes of her survey the author has included for scrutiny and historical description all architectural work done in differ-

ent lands during the Ottoman era. Even though in earlier studies, she says, some of these monuments may have been categorised simply as Islamic, post-Byzantine or even pre-modern, for her purposes they are in fact Ottoman.

It's a mistake, she indicates, to seek homogeneity in Ottoman styles. The westward push under Murat I (1362-1389) triggered a whole range of political, economic and cultural exchanges, the result of which on architecture of the time was diverse or varied.

As with Ottoman art, with some exceptions, Ottoman architecture developed anonymously as a collective phenomenon. It was at its best when patronised by the state, and that - through the ages - remains the strongest characteristic of both art and architecture created in the Ottoman empire.

In the 14th and the better part of the 15th century, when Turks were still busy consolidating away from Istanbul, the prize not yet won by Mehmet II "The Conqueror," Anatolia saw a construction boom on a grand scale. First Bursa and then Edirne became the fledgling empire's capitals and countless mosques, hospitals, caravanserais and bazars followed the rulers' arrival.

It was only after Istanbul became the centre of the empire, with Serbia, Greece, Crimea, Syria, Palestine and Egypt (to mention just those few) joining in as provinces, that Ottoman art and architecture received a major boost from the royal court. Ornamentation inevitably crept in, and the period produced some of the most lavish examples of both buildings and craftsmanship.

The empire's economic troubles gave rise to what we now recognise as a building slump. Added to that was the inexorable European influence on everything Ottoman, plus political reforms in favour of non-Muslim denizens. Both occurrences had their effect on architecture in the empire.

Yenisehirlioglu has done an admirable job of putting together a document that can be used (by proud Turks) as a coffee-table presentation and by researchers and students of Turkey as an important resource.

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New light on Egypt's golden years

By Patricia Jellicoe
Special to The Star

ISTANBUL - The co-editor of the Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Middle East and North Africa with Albert Hourani, Middle East expert and historian, Trevor Mostyn is a romantic and dedicated lover of Cairo. Into this slim volume he has packed not only his own lifetime's anecdotes, but a very concentrated review of the period from Muhammad Ali's rule to the present day.

It is, in fact, a social history from 1805, based on the obsession with France of Muhammad Ali and culminating with that of the fifth ruler, the first Khedive,

Ismail, which influenced Turkish-Egyptian Cairo and its life. But, as Trevor Mostyn points out, "it was a cruel period and Muhammad Ali had taken Western technology without showing a proportionate curiosity about the moral evolution of Europe."

The author's knowledge of the subject and his very wide reading - as evidenced by the innumerable meticulous quotations and references - merited a longer look, more filled in with live detail rather than congealed into single sentences. It is full of tantalising allusions and morsels of information. Somehow, it feels like a 'choker' necklace, tightly strung

with 'gems' which in a longer single strand, threaded less tightly, would be seen more easily by those less familiar with the associated names and times.

The glittering climax of this whole period, with its accompaniment of the exquisite Empress Eugenie and a retinue of royalty entertained by fireworks and feasting, when West and East were truly linked by the opening of the Suez Canal on 18 December 1869, would emerge in its full dramatic place in history.

The incredibly visionary and audacious, if extravagant, recreation of Cairo (perhaps the greatest of oriental medieval cities with its Al Azhar university, pal-

aces and mosques) into the city known before 1950 as one of the most elegant and beautiful in the world, inspired by Baron Haussmann's Paris, was an extraordinary manifestation of the Ottoman Empire's own efforts at recognition by the western world.

Excellent in so many ways, such as the founding of schools and a superb telephone service, the political effects of such an overwhelming and expensive westernisation of Cairo form the background to its social history.

High interest rates on loans ruined Egypt's economy forcing Ismail's abdication; French and British intrigues saw the out-

come of British power-play only increasing Egypt's determination to gain its own independence. With the present focus on the Middle East, this background is valuable in its place as a sub-structure, as were the victories and vicissitudes of the Second World War underlying Aramis Cooper's Cairo 1939-1945.

The colourful descriptions of Palace interiors, lavish entertainments and Imperial fetes, the defile of European royalty, the characters and the costumes are all there for our own business-suited, Filofax-bound generations to revel in, as we do in the constant replays of Gone with the Wind. But, like Oliver Twist, we want more in gossip, details and colour.

The grisly tales of the habits of several of the rulers, and particularly of Muhammad Ali's daughter, Princess Nazli (the first of the three charismatic Nazlis), present the darker and more terrifying inheritance of Cairo's Turkish rulers. The many lurid references to brothels, prostitutes and sexual activities incline one to think that the publishers read "Bordello Epique" for "Belle Epoque" thinking to sell the more serious social history with an overlay of the present obsession with insinuations of the lascivious.

Brothels and prostitutes shock us less, perhaps, than the barbaric vengeance of the privileged - Princess Nazli presenting the severed head of a pretty serving girl on a plate before her husband (who had a kind word for the girl). Today, we have all been shown the caged rows of Bombay's child prostitutes and the Victorian aftermath of desolation and flesh for sale.

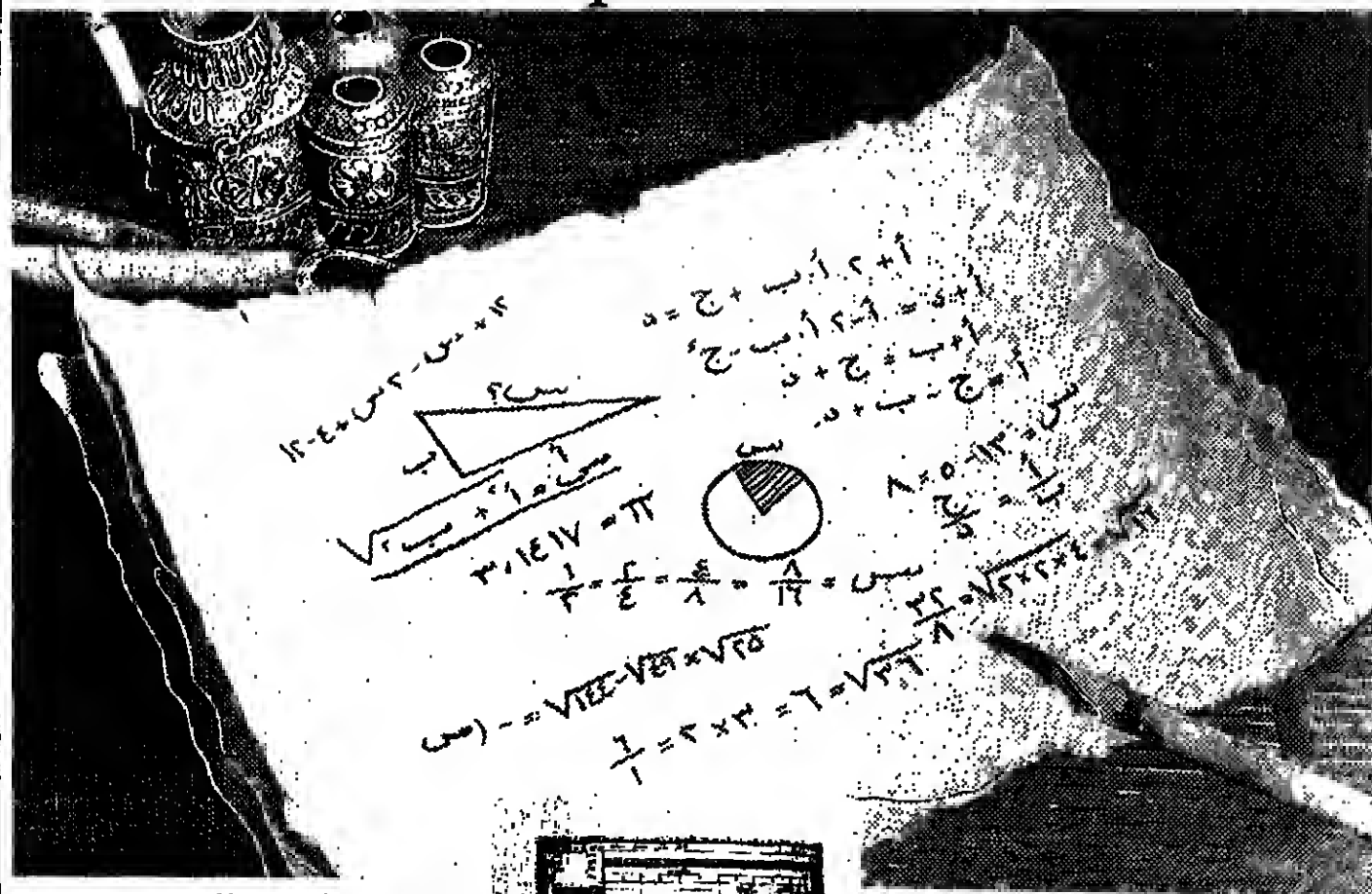
The crumbling ruins of Cairo's Old City, untouched by Ismail's grandiose plans - are indeed a part of the open sores of poverty. But, unique to Cairo, there is still the limpid, lovely golden light, and here and there, the scent of jasmine and rose, so abundant once in the many gardens since disappeared, but so much a part of that evocative classic - A Late Beginner, Priscilla Napier's intensely personal view in her book of a First World War childhood in Cairo.

It was a privileged world, but Cairo had always given it a beautiful setting, whether as the stage for the jewelled and silken sweep of the Empress Eugenie's dramatic appearance, or recalling to the many who called Cairo home, the clop-clopping of donkeys and the humorous, warm devotion of those patient servants: the "suffraghis".

Surely the splendours of such palaces as Abdin and Gezira and the ceremonial passage of Eugenie deserved a less disappointing, rather meagre group of photographs (the two best of which I believe were found by the author in London's Portobello Market). There are innumerable enchanting paintings of Eugenie and colourful illustrations of Egypt, easily available as well as intriguing time-capsules in photographs from family albums, as in Philip Mansel's Sultans of Splendour.

Why not a map to help us go hand-in-hand with Trevor Mostyn as he takes us through the Cairo? Some, at least, of such illustrations would have given the publishers' accolade to the author's research, and excellent bibliography, notes and index.

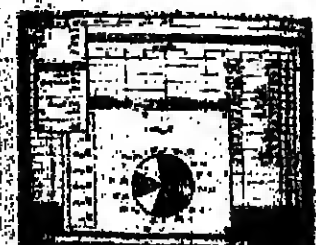
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ECONOMY

The Star

Cement company goes for exports

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

EXPORT ORDERS for two million tonnes of cement are expected to earn the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) \$40-50 million in foreign exchange in 1990. JCFC Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Dr Khalid Al-Dhahir told The Star that 1990 contracts for sales, around half for a new venture into clinker sales and mainly to new markets in the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and other Far Eastern countries, should be the beginning of a long-term export programme that will boost profits and enable the company to settle \$89.8 million in loan repayments and interest due between 1990 and 1993.

The dollar earnings will bring considerable relief to JCFC which has had to find dollars to cover debts arising from the construction of the \$299 million Rashadieh works in Southern Jordan and extensions to its long-established plant at Fuheis near Amman. Al-Dhahir says JCFC has repaid \$205.1 million since 1986 but the sharp devaluation of the dinar in 1988 caused difficulties as the bulk of company sales have been to the local market. He estimates that the dinar decline will cost the company an extra JD 31 million in debt repayments between 1990 and 1993.

The boost in profits will also help as the company faces payment of an extra JD 43.9 million in consumption tax on local sales which is due to the govern-

ment between 1991 and 1995. A postponement of consumption tax was offered to the consistently profitable Fuheis-based JCFC in 1985 to persuade it to accept a merger with the South Cement Company (SSC) whose Rasha-

1986-90 over five years and 40 per cent as government shares in the company. Repayment will now actually begin in July 1990 as part of recent Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee recommen-

to JD 1 million for 1989.

Al-Dhahir says the development of a secure export market is now the key to improved and sustainable profits particularly as the local market declined by 6.8 per cent in 1989 and at best can be expected to remain static in the next few years.

JCFC's major challenge now is to cope with the logistics of exporting two million tonnes of cement. Small scale exports to Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, Somalia, Singapore and Sudan totalling 189,000 tonnes in all, have gone smoothly but JCFC's largest export orders to date of two consignments of 750,000 tonnes each to Egypt have been dogged by handling problems.

The need to keep costs down and save foreign exchange has stimulated new activity at the JCFC workshops. When the company called for quotes for the supply of conveyor belts to handle the clinker at Aqaba the lowest price offered was half a million pounds sterling and with the process of tendering delivery would have taken several months.

Staff at the workshops have now made the belts for JD 70,000 and they will be ready for use within the next fortnight.

Al-Dhahir says local trucking companies should be able to handle the transport of the cement to Aqaba and the final hurdle will be to ensure that the company will be provided with adequate berth space at Aqaba port, a question he hopes to see resolved within the next few weeks.



Cement factories in Fuheis: Good prospects for opening new markets in the 1990s

dich works had suffered heavy losses from the time of its opening in March 1984. At the time JCFC shareholders opposed the merger fearing that SSC, which lost about \$32.9 million in 1985 would pull down the JCFC. The merger went ahead and the new company took over the tax exemptions enjoyed by SSC as a new industrial venture and was also allowed to postpone the JD 8 per tonne local consumption tax, until 1 January 1991 when it was to be repaid in the form of 60 per cent of the amount due

dations to trim back the 1990 government budget.

The merged company has managed to cut production and administrative costs substantially, saving JD 4.7 million in 1986 alone and profits rose from JD 3.8 million in 1986 to JD 7.8 million in 1987. Since then it has been hit by the dinar decline as profits earned largely on the local market have had to be stretched to repay dollar debts. Profits dropped back to JD 3.9 million in 1988 and are expected to be in the range of JD 900,000

Fertiliser follows food dream

THE ROAD to self sufficiency in food production by the Arab states is also the road to growth for the Jordan Kuwait Company for Agriculture and Food Products (JKC). The company began production of liquid fertiliser at its Aqaba plant in March 1989 but has already established markets in Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and is chasing new opportunities in Egypt, Iraq and Abu Dhabi and expects to return a small profit after just one year in the market.

JKC marketing manager Fuad Abu Sheikh says the company is now operating its satellite system successfully in both Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Under the system JKC produces basic grades of fertiliser at its Aqaba plant and these are mixed according to the needs of farmers at satellite stations located in farming areas. The two satellites in Jordan, located in the Jordan Valley and at Bageh, handled 1000 tonnes of fertiliser between March and December and sales are expected to rise to between four and five

thousand tonnes this year. Sales to Saudi Arabia also reached 1000 tonnes in 1989 but, according to Abu Sheikh should also increase steadily as the Saudi Arabian government goes ahead with cuts in subsidies to the agricultural sector. When farms have to be economic he says, farmers pay more attention to getting value for money for their inputs. Liquid fertiliser, which can be added to drip and pivot irrigation systems in precise quantities, is more economical.

The Jordanian product is also much cheaper, selling at JD 250 per tonne while other producers are selling at up to four times that price. Until now liquid fertiliser has sold for JD 1200 per tonne in Egypt. The Egyptian market also offers good chances for co-operation in production as Jordan provides the phosphate and potash and Egypt the ammonia and urea that are needed for fertiliser production. JKC is considering establishing a plant in Egypt which could take concen-



Liquid fertiliser: Big money ahead

trated grades from Aqaba and add the elements available in Egypt.

Expansion is also expected in Kuwait where the government is involved in ambitious plans to expand irrigated agriculture. The company has already built a satellite station in Kuwait and is now planning on two more, one at Abdaliya and the other close to the Iraqi border. It expects to sell 1000 tonnes there in 1990. JKC also expects to begin exports to Iraq and Abu Dhabi this year.

Back at home JKC is planning for a horizontal expansion in its range of products, developing speciality products for house plants, nurseries, cash crops, for application etc, and has already produced a special high

nitrate fertiliser for use during the coldest months of the year. Suspension, which is the fine particles that settle at the bottom of liquid fertiliser and which is particularly suitable for cereal crops, will also be available on the Jordanian market this year at very cheap prices.

Even with a wider range of products available the Jordanian market will always be limited and the company is happy to provide fertiliser for the Ministry of Agriculture forestry projects and the University of Jordan experimental farm in the Jordan Valley free of charge as a community service. It is in the neighbouring Arab states with their plans for greater self sufficiency that Abu Sheikh sees the chance for real growth. (PAID)

Briefs

● Studies to raise fees on labour permits for foreign workers are underway. One study suggests raising the current fee for permits given to foreign workers from JD 300 to JD 500, while it calls for adjusting fees for Arab workers from JD 10 to JD 200.

● The government has decided to take all necessary measures to maintain the Taphine pipeline and to continue to support part of Jordan's oil needs through it. Technical and political considerations affected the government's decision. The Star learned that a study is underway to connect the Taphine to the Iraq-Shuail oil pipeline. Estimates for this project are set at \$2 million.

● The Hijaz Railway Bureau will be liquidated soon, after the governments of Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia decided to terminate all studies to re-operate the Damascus-Amman-Medina Hijaz line which was operational during the Ottoman rule.

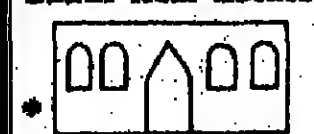
● The Royal Scientific Society has conducted the necessary feasibility studies for the establishment of a telephone equipment factory in Jordan. The RSS study has considered exports to neighbouring markets and the possibility of creating jobs in Jordan.

● The cabinet has approved a bilateral agreement with the French government to re-schedule loans extended to Jordan by the French government and others guaranteed by French Exports Corp. COFACE. The total value of these loans are around FF 773 million and \$100,000.

Interests on these loans of about FF 75 million will also be re-scheduled. The cabinet also decided to cancel about \$80,000 of the Italian commercial loan agreement with Jordan since there was no need for the surplus. This loan, valued at \$39 million, was used to finance the first stage of the Aqaba Thermal Station project. Jordan has already used \$31.5 million of the loan. The decision to cancel the surplus was taken after the completion of the project's first phase.

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2 mons.	8.5/16	8.7/16	15.1/8	7.125	9.1/2
3 mons.	8.5/16	8.9/16	15.3/16	7.185	9.11/16
6 mons.	8.3/8	8.7/8	15.3/16	7.350	9.3/4
1 year	8.9/16	9.1/8	15.3/16	7.45	9.11/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.5%, 1 month 9%, 2 months 9.125%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:

DMK SFR STG YEN CAN FFR
LAST 1.6789/90 1.5000/10 1.6990/10 144.33/38 1.2008/13 5.6925/55
Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Gold & Silver

Gold	JD
1 kg	8,900,000
21 ct	7,750
18 ct	6,650
Eng. pound	64,000
8g	56,000
Rashad:	9,750
7g	
24ct (awiss)	
Silver	
1 kg	160,000

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on 25/1/1990 in Jds

Official:	(Jds)
US	662.0
Pound	1,124.1
DEM.	397.8
SFR	445.4
FRF	116.9
Yen (100)	456.7
Parallel:	
US	672.5
Pound	1,144.0
DEM.	405.2
SFR	454.3
FRF	119.6
Yen (100)	465.9

Consumer Watch

Making a Purchase

ALL CONSUMERS think in one direction when it comes to asking the same question: "How do I get the most for my money and avoid purchasing problems?" The answers are numerous, however, all these answers are guided by the same self-seeking protection of consumer's money.

Before making a purchase, eight commandments should be taken into consideration. These are:

1. Analyze what you need and what product or service features are important to you.

2. Compare brands, seek recommendations and pursue formal product comparison information.

3. Compare stores. Do not shop again at a store with a bad reputation, or a store which you feel has treated you unfairly.

4. Check for any extra charges, such as delivery fees, installation, and service costs.

5. Read the warranty and seek to understand from the warranty what your rights and liabilities.

6. If you need to sign a contract, read contract terms carefully.

7. Check whether the store you shop at has a return exchange policy or not.

8. Do not rely on advertisements for 100% of your purchases. An item is not necessarily a bargain, just because it is advertised as one.

There are also seven commandments which should be considered after making a purchase. These are:

1. Read and follow the instructions on how to use the product.

2. Use the product only as recommended by the manufacturer.

3. Read and understand the warranty once more. Seek to educate yourself, as minimum as possible, with the country's warranty rights.

4. Keep all sales receipts, warranties, and instructions.

5. If you have a problem with the product you purchased, refer it to the seller. Trying to fix the product yourself may cancel the warranty.

6. If you are trying to resolve a problem on your own, keep a file of your efforts and include the names of the store and/or individuals you speak with. The time, date, outcome and any other information you try to record and write are valuable information.

7. If you fail to resolve a problem on your own, find out the official authorities which you may approach to get your problem resolved.

Contracts & Contacts

TN: 11/90. Expansion Joints. Arab Potash Co. CD: 5/3/1990. TD: JD 10.

TN: 1/90. Equipment, spare parts, glassware and chemicals for the College of Medicine. CD: 5/3/1990. TD: JD 10. TN: 2/90.

Films, plates and photography supplies for the University's press. CD: 19/2/1990. TD: JD 5. TN: 3/90. Paper of various types for the University's press. CD: 19/2/1990. TD: JD 10. TN: 4/90. Stationery CD: 19/2/1990. TD: JD 5. Tenders 1/90-4/90 for the University of Jordan.

TN: 1/90. Asphalt mixes for roads. Kurak Governorate/Directorate of Works. CD: 21/2/1990. TD: JD 25.

TN: 1/90. Supply of polymers. Water Authority. CD: 20/3/1990. TD: JD 15.

Sale of drilling equipment (IBM-129). Armed Forces/Directorate of Royal Maintenance Force. CD: 25/2/1990.

TN: (Local) 1/90F, 2/90F and 3/90F. Supply of medicine, hygienic paper and cleaning materials. University of Jordan. CD: 25/2/1990, 27/2/1990 and 3/3/1990. TD: JD 5 each.

Licenses for road advertising signs. Ministry of Public Works and Housing/Directorate of Maintenance. Deadline for renewing current licenses is 31/3/1990.

Sale of unusable auto batteries (Q:55), train batteries (Q: 158), and wheels (Q:340). Aqaba Railway Corp. CD: 19/2/1990. P.O. Box 50.

TN: 1/90. Gypsum-made suspension ceilings for Wadi Mosa/Petra Rest House. Ministry of Tourism CD: 21/2/1990. TD: JD 10.

CJSH / Construction/90/2. Reinforcement Steel. Royal Air Force. CD: 17/2/1990.

TN: 5/90. Wedding rods. Jordan Cement Factories Co. CD: 10/3/1990. TD: JD 5.

National Medical Institution. Stationery and Library Supplies. TD: JD 40. Dining and cooking supplies, plastic materials, glass and mllamin cups. CD: 3/3/1990.

TN: 55/88 (Annex No. 1). Electronic Switchboard (70 lines able to expand to 150 lines and 50 internal extensions). Rnyol Scientific Society. CD: 17/2/1990. TD: JD 10.

* This service is free-of-charge. To publish your tenders in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with tender, auction, public sale, garage sale, bazaar sale, etc., details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Industrial Zones

Amman Industrial Estates Corporation
The Permanent Exhibition

JORDAN INDUSTRIAL Estates Corporation is always keen to take the initiatives to assist industries located within the industrial estate. One of these initiatives is establishing the permanent exhibition in Amman Industrial Estate / Sohiab which was inaugurated on 25 May 1989.

To date the exhibition attracted about 100 industries and the number of participants is expected to double by the end of 1990. The main objectives of this exhibition is to promote the present industrial and assist in marketing their products through the visiting of official parties, foreign and Arab diplomats, Jordan University students, schools and many other visitors.

Shady Aluminium

Location: Amman Industrial Estate / Shuhail

Starting Production Date: Early 1989

Invested Capital: JD 100,000

Number of Workers: 11 workers

Type of Production: All kinds of domestic utensils

The present capacity is around 150 tons annually of which 10 per cent is exported to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Its sales during 1989 reached up to JD 100,000 and the company is looking for new markets, particularly the markets of the Arab Co-operation Council.

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P.O. Box: 921085

Tel: 722725

Shows & Exhibitions

Pub-Print '90

HONG KONG will host an international exhibition and conference for the Publishing and Printing Industry in Asia between 22-25 June 1990. The exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Third Asian/Pacific World Publishing Congress. The show is organized by the Exhibition Director of Business and Industrial Trade Fairs Ltd. Andy Chung. Scheduled for display are printing machinery, pressroom equipment, paper, inks, mail handling equipment, design room equipment and supplies, direct mail services, media and publications and related services.

Contact: 190 Middle Road, # 17-01 Fortune Center, Singapore 0718. Write to: Asian/Pacific World Publishing Congress.

Petra Bank: Case pending, recovery staggering

Q- Have you resolved your problems with your employees... have you met with their representatives?

A- I have been meeting with our employees for sometime. When the Directors' Committee took over we knew little about how had the state of most employees was. Except for few privileged employees, the majority were neglected. One hundred-sixty-seven employees had salaries below JD 100 monthly while 125 others received salaries between JD 100 and JD 125 monthly. We have employees who hold university degrees and who have been in the bank for more than six years and still their salaries were between JD 130 to 140.

We have inherited the problems of those employees. The privileged few had advantages over the majority of employees. Our main concern was the continuity of the bank. Before thinking of improving the conditions of the employees we had to think of safeguarding their jobs at a time when the country is suffering from unemployment. Our biggest achievement was not in improving work conditions but in keeping this establishment functioning and in safeguarding job opportunities. We started with a reasonable improvement in the conditions of minor workers and in removing any injustices that they had incurred in accordance with the bank's potentials. I repeat we had inherited critical problems which would have threatened the very existence of the establishment had things not been dealt with wisely and realistically.

We have started already in taking serious steps to improve working conditions. We formed committees to draw out regulations for personnel, before there were none... it was all according to personal whims. Before, the establishment suffered from politicised trends, some still exist, and was functioning to serve the personal interests of few people. I believe we had dealt with these problems logically and in responsible ways. We have explained the situation to our employees and I observed that the majority are now more understanding and more co-operative.

Q- What are your present strategies for recovery and for putting the bank on the right tracks?

A- We are working in three directions. The first is to contain the problem and document it scientifically and professionally. In this regard we have managed, as a committee, to execute this mission in a record time. We have defined the size of the problem by the end of September 1989. In addition to that, and for future dealings with creditors in order to win their co-operation, we have resorted to an international body which is professional and neutral... we chose Arthur Anderson Auditors Bureau in order to re-audit the bank's accounts and show its true financial status and the loss and profit statement as of 2 August 1989, the date on which we took over. Their report is about to be completed and will be published in less than a month and their conclusions are almost in line with ours.

The second direction involves preparing a futuristic working plan covering the next 10 years. It will be based on realistic assumptions involving the distribution of responsibilities of solving the problems among the government, international creditors and major creditors at home. The plan to distribute responsibilities and re-schedule our debts will be in harmony with our futuristic plan. Following all this we will organise a round table meeting with creditors and review the three documents: one defining our problem, the second projecting our future plans and if they accept both documents then we work on the third which deals with distributing the responsibilities and scheduling debts.

We naturally expect a highly professional and exhausting dialogue to take place with the creditors. We will go into details so that they can be assured that we are dealing with the problem scientifically and realistically so as to be convinced that we, as a management, are competent. If they get convinced of our ability to execute the futuristic plan then they can be convinced to spend their share of necessary sacrifices in return for future gains.

Jordan's biggest financial debacle in the last decade was certainly the Petra Bank case. Today the mystery of Mr Ahmad Al Chalabi's, the bank's previous Chairman and General Manager, true involvement in the bank's mismanagement is yet to unfold. More than six months after a government-appointed committee replaced the bank's board of directors, Mr Bassam Atari, the bank's Director General, says the investigation into the Chalabi case continues, while he predicts a 10 to 15 year period before achieving total recovery. In an interview with The Star Chief Editor Osama El-Sherif, Mr Atari says that the bank's JD 250 million debts are the most critical of the establishment's problems. But he expects a roundtable meeting for creditors to take place before the end of this year. Following is the full text of the interview.



Mr Bassam Atari

Q- What about your Washington branch? Have you made any arrangements or measures to control its operation?

A- We now control the Washington branch. This has come about through the co-operation of various authorities on top of which is the Central Bank and now the branch is able to face its commitments and keep its doors open. Currently, studies are underway to investigate its position and determine its future. I am not in a position to decide on the final results of these studies, but there is a general trend towards keeping the bank operational if it was proven beyond doubt that the price of keeping it working is less than that of liquidating it and if studies regarding its future prove to all that it can perform as a financial institution able to generate profit within a period of no more than two years. Preliminary indicators show that it will be able to cover its expenses during the coming two years, but these figures are not final.

Q- Has the Central Bank imposed any conditions to keeping the Washington branch open?

A- I would prefer that you ask the Central Bank this question.

Q- What are the latest developments regarding the former administration and Mr Ahmad Al Chalabi's case?

A- As far as we are concerned as a management we are providing the concerned judicial authority with all available information after documenting everything. We had provided them in the beginning with files covering many aspects of behaviour which we thought called for accounting and legal questioning. But we have to confess that some of these files had lacked the full documentation needed to build a clear case. This was due to lack of information on the detailed aspects of what was to be documented in each file. But until now we are working closely with the legal authorities out of our position and knowledge. There are obvious cases of fraud and mispending involving large sums of money. The matter is now in the hands of the law and we have faith in our judicial system.

Q- Has Mr Chalabi filed a suit in the United States against the

government action against Petra Bank?

A- No one has filed any suits and if he did file it, it will bring on him great sufferings.

Q- It is said that you took a risk by accepting this job and that you have tied your fate to that of Petra Bank. Are you satisfied with your decision to accept this responsibility?

A- I look at this responsibility as an assignment. I have been recruited to carry this responsibility without a previous choice. And despite the difficulties of this responsibility and the problems I face, and they are a lot, I am personally gratified that my colleagues and I in the committee of directors, who share in this responsibility, are spending all of our efforts with a high degree of professionalism and that in the end we are serving a cause and dealing with a problem which goes beyond Petra Bank to include the whole country.

Q- When do you think you will be able to organise the round table meeting with your creditors and start implementing your strategies for recovery?

A- It is early to decide on a date. The future plan and the distribution of responsibilities, and re-scheduling of debts documents usually require an international stamp by an internationally-recognised institution as we did with the description of the present state document. Currently we are contacting experts. And when they come we will put before them everything that we did in this regard and we will consult them so as to formulate the final documents. But all of this should be finalised and the round table meeting will be held before the end of 1990. The earlier we have that meeting the sooner can we begin solving our problems.

Q- What is your current policy on offering credits locally?

A- We are performing all operations related to local and foreign credit facilities in a normal way, but our performances in these fields are highly reserved in appreciation of the bank's special circumstances.

Q- Do you have a problem of liquidity?

A- Thanks to the support of the Central Bank and other banks we don't have a liquidity problem that might affect the bank's ability to meet its obligations towards any creditors who have dealt with the bank after 2 August 1989. We also don't have any problem with depositors, whether their deposits are in Jordanian dinars or foreign currencies.

Q- What is your present relation with the Jordan and Gulf Bank. Are you still planning to merge?

A- Officially we are all heading towards merger. The complete picture should be clear before the end of this year. From an official point of view, we are still expected as a committee to prepare for merger. Technically this can't be done before working out all problems, but overall the picture should be clearer before the end of 1990.

Rule-of-thumb

Quality Mark

A "QUALITY Mark" is an indication of conformity, to the minimum, with adopted standards and measures. The Directorate of Standards and Measures is authorised by the law to issue and adopt a mark of quality of its own, referred to as "Quality Mark", and allow producers of any commodity in the Kingdom to use such quality mark. There is a set of regulatory instructions governing the use of quality marks. These regulations or instructions are issued by the Directorate. Means of publicising the mark and forms of expressing it are defined in the instructions. The quality mark may take the form of a seal or stamp on the commodity, or a certificate appended to the commodity. It may also be woven or impressed on the commodity.

Observing standard specifications and complying with their conditions is a continuous task which should be undertaken by the producer in order to maintain the right to use a quality mark. Selling a commodity which carries a producer quality mark generally represents an undertaking by the producer to the buyer that the commodity sold conforms to standard specifications. There are a number of factors which regulate the producer's right to use a quality mark. The producer should accept and expect surprise check, inspection measures, control measures and sample taking. The producer should allow inspectors to inspect and control materials carrying quality marks.

In cases where a commodity, to which a quality mark is granted, fails to conform with standard specifications, the owner of the quality mark receives a written warning by the Directorate. The written warning gives the producer (owner of quality mark) a deadline to comply with his obligations. Failure to honour the warning will result in terminating the permit to use the quality mark under a written notice. Failure to abide by the notice's instructions will result in confiscating or destroying the commodity under authority by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

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Director: Mr. Berhane Asfaha
Tel: 160383/162055
Tlx: 21239 EQUIPCO ADDIS

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Nairobi

Director: Mr. R.A. Vyas
Tel: 746924

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Our Say...

Pinned hopes

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia this week assumes an added importance because of both its timing and the substance of the talks between the Jordanian and Saudi leaderships.

As both King Hussein and King Fahd discuss the recent developments in the region, we are constantly reminded of the looming threats that had emerged since the beginning of this year.

Jordan has made it clear that the waves of Jewish immigration to Israel pose a real security threat to the essence of the Arab Order. This can only mean that the danger goes beyond Jordan and the Palestinian lands. It certainly includes neighbouring countries because any fluctuations in the balance of power and demography in the region is bound to affect us all.

It is from this important fact that King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia assumes its added importance. The Arab world has to come to grips with a changing world around it. The upset of regimes in Eastern Europe, the new alliances that are taking place in Europe and the coming to terms between the United States and the Soviet Union are hard facts that will change our lives.

Israel is wasting no time in banking on these developments and turning the course of events to serve its own interests. Israeli ambitions can only be served at the expense of the whole Arab world and not only Jordan. We have seen how Israel manages to exploit the civil war in Lebanon to maintain its occupation of its southern parts, and how it is preventing any serious attempts at ending that Arab country's strife and bringing about national reconciliation. We have seen how Israel was the first country to reap strategic benefits from the emerging leaderships of Eastern Europe while the Arabs were contended with the role of innocent bystanders with no strategy of their own. We were shocked as we saw thousands of Soviet emigres pouring into Israel, when the Palestinian Uprising was about to reap the fruits of the sacrifices it made by confronting Israel and forcing upon it a just and lasting peace.

And now we are about to see a re-emergence of a youthful, confident and aggressive Israel which will stand at nothing to repress the Palestinian Intifada, and execute its evil plans of displacing Palestinians under its occupation from their homes. The Arabs, meanwhile, seem to have lost touch with reality and are awaiting these ominous events to take place with no kind of defence whatsoever.

The Hussein-Fahd meeting must have addressed these issues. The logical outcome of such an important meeting should be to call for the convening of an emergency Arab summit meeting so that all Arab leaders can assume their historic responsibilities. The future of the generations to come is at stake. We, as people, know it and we look at our leaderships to take action before it is too late.



Letters to the editor

Best wishes

To the editor:
IT IS a pleasure to be of service to the people in and around Amman. Thank you for making it possible by running my column.
With best wishes to you and everyone at The Star for a very happy and prosperous 1990, I am

Jeanne Dixon
The United States.

The Arabs shock me again

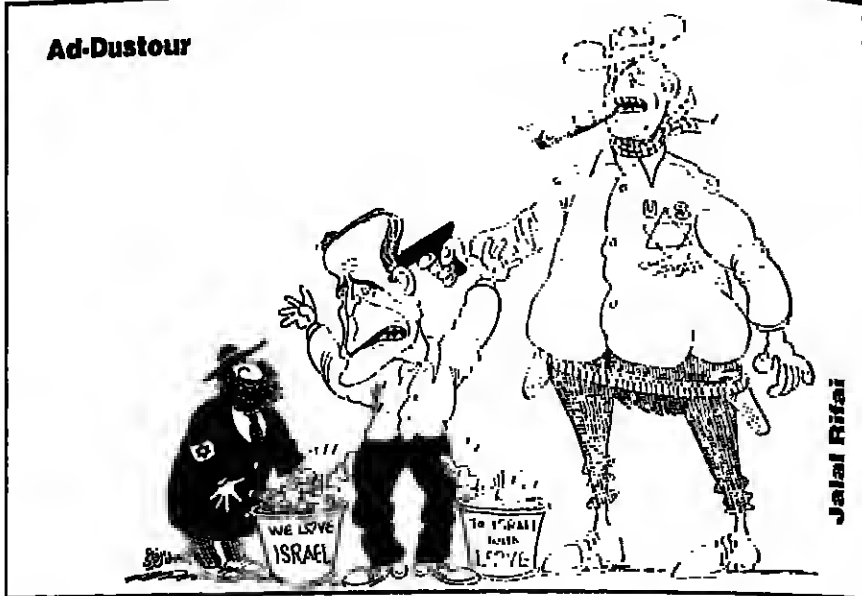
To the editor
YOUR REPORT on UNRWA which appeared in The Star issue No. 4, date 8-14 February was highly informative of the hardships faced by Palestine refugees, and the services rendered to them by UNRWA. Yet it was also shocking - and once again - the Arabs were behind the disappointment.

Instead of elaborating on this last statement I will quote one of the paragraphs in your report and leave it to the reader to agree or disagree with me:

"The Arab countries funded less than seven per cent of UNRWA's budget before 1984 but now their contribution is less than three per cent. Saudi Arabia's donation, for example, amounts to \$1.2 million only."

Fadi Hussien
Amman.

Ad-Dustour



Postscript

by Osama El-Sherif

Superman at 71

IT WAS a Sunday unlike any other. To be born out of the living dead, to cynically break the laws of nature and to simply become superman at 71.

Nelson Mandela walked away a free man. But on his day of liberation everything made sense. His sacrifices, tenacity, determination, patience and perseverance. He walked with his head high despite the tremendous years that burdened him, his steps echoing the cries for freedom, reverberating the breaking of chains which held the man, but not his spirit for 27 years.

Mandela is not only a hero of his people, he is ours as much as he has become a symbol to all the oppressed who are denied the basic right to live as humans, equal to others before the one God.

Let those hypocrites who hide their hate and fears today listen to these echoes and look at the pale faces of the oppressors. Mandela believed in a cause - one he shared with millions on this earth beyond the colour of their skins and the sounds of their tongues.

When we despaired, in the darkest of moments, he did not. He shouted his beliefs and penetrated the walls of his cell to reach us all. Mandela is a reminder to all those who despair. He has set an example to those who forgot the meaning of sacrifice, of courage and of defying injustice under unequal circumstances.

Mandela has proved the existence of the superman, not in the physical sense, but much more. He has proved to all of us what we had forgotten long time ago; that you can break a man's bones, you can deny him his freedom, torture and even kill him.

But no power on earth can destroy an idea, obliterate a thought, torture a sentiment or incarcerate a human spirit.

The lesson was understood by the government of South Africa after so many years. But the moral is for all others to know too.

PS: The day President George Bush called on the Soviet Union to facilitate the movement of Soviet Jews into Israel by allowing direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, Israeli soldiers killed two young Palestinian youths in cold blood. The killing spree is still on in Rafah.



Mr Bush believes causing Soviet emigration to Israel would help the peace process, while his aides have made an audacious request to Arab League Secretary General Chadi Khlifi that the Arabs end their boycott of Israel and withdraw the UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism

to Racism.

We have reached a stage of Arab disorder that allows our adversaries to add insults to their many injuries.

The peace process, which Mr Bush is keen on supporting, is a figment of his imagination, and yet we believe. The conditions put to Mr Chadi Khlifi are nothing more than pressures to an unconditional surrender.

While so-called Arab diplomacy remains a fictitious creation of die-hard utopians, the facts continue to hit us every day. Palestinians are being shot in cold blood, Jews stream unchecked into an Israel on the verge of its rebirth, and the Arabs continue to promote their favourite pastime activity; condemn, conspire (against each other) and cajole.

Jordan's democracy is irreversible

The following editorial opinion by James Zogby, Executive Director of the Arab American Institute, headlined "onset of an irreversible process within Jordan," appeared in the 12 February issue of Washington Times:

WITH THE world's attention still focused on the highly dramatic process of democratisation underway in Eastern Europe, it is perhaps understandable that less clear-cut developments in other regions and countries receive short shrift. Nevertheless, the boundaries of political expression are expanding in both Latin America and the Middle East and that also merits notice.

Jordan is an important case in point. Its small and highly vulnerable economy is coupled with the pressures resulting from its physical location across the Jordan River from Israel. Yet recent parliamentary elections there are a clear sign that democratisation - if not democracy - is in the ascendancy.

I have just returned from a visit to Jordan where I met with His Majesty King Hussein, officials from the Jordanian government, members of Parliament and a number of journalists and political analysts.

I come back convinced of three facts:

- The process unfolding in Jordan is irreversible.

- Jordanians are deeply concerned about Israeli intentions, not only with regard to the occupied Palestinian lands but also because of Israel's impact on the stability of their own country.

- Our government is not doing enough to support Jordan's steps toward democracy.

Far from the negative picture painted by some US Middle East analysts, the recent elections in Jordan - in which some 30 parliamentary seats were won by religious Muslims - has created neither panic nor great concern among Westernised Jordanians. By all accounts, the elections were remarkably open and free. And while voter participation was rather low - about 40 per cent - the process of democracy is still unfolding and expanding.

Muslims made a very strong showing, but inferring that all self-identifying religious Muslims are religious extremists is about as accurate as to suggest that all bearded Jews or crucifix-wearing Christians are fanatics. In fact, with regard to the composition of the Muslim "bloc" in the new Parliament, several points should be made:

- The proportion of those Muslims elected who hold truly hardcore religious views is far less than the proportion of hard-line ideological and religious fanatics elected to the Israeli Knesset.

- The Muslims elected to the 80-member house by no means share a common ideology, and some are quite liberal and flexible in their attitudes toward governance.

- Those who won did so because they were far more organised and able to get out the vote. King Hussein's late decision to allow other political groupings to run candidates precluded many victories, while the ability of Muslim groups to use religious institutions for organising purposes increased their advantage.

Given the anticipated legitimisation of political parties and increased voter participation, a more diverse mix of members of Parliament is expected in future elections. Other important steps have already been taken to free Jordan's political climate. For many, the release of political prisoners and the return of confiscated passports is the clearest evidence of the changes underway. Martial law, in force for some 25 years, has been lifted. Political groups are now functioning openly.

Demonstrations are now more or less commonplace in Jordan. In the press and other public forums, a healthy and lively



debate is taking place about the future direction of the country.

Above all, there is a renewed sense of identity and a new national pride among Jordanians. Democratisation is making winners of both the people and government of Jordan.

Yet while enjoying their new freedoms, Jordanians are still deeply concerned about the precariousness of their situation vis-a-vis Israel. Not only does Israel's hardline Likud Party show no willingness to move toward a "land for peace" settlement with the Palestinians but it has accelerated its "Jordan is Palestine" campaign. Israel's renewed efforts to re-settle some 600,000 Soviet Jews in the West Bank and to force Palestinians out of that area into Jordan arouses the fears of Jordanians for the stability of their country.

That Israel's actions are accompanied by a 20 per cent increase in US aid to that country - including a hefty chunk for resettling Soviet Jewish immigrants - is also cause for concern in Jordan. The fact that the United States is doing nothing to ensure Israeli resettlement policy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza nor to stop Israel from violently suppressing the Palestinians' uprising for national and democratic rights nor to support Jordan's move toward democratisation is at best puzzling.

Surely if an East European government were behaving in a similar manner (as some have in the recent past) - occupying the territory of another ethnic community while violently suppressing its desire for freedom; threatening to expel the inhabitants and to install its own people in that territory, and doing all this with US funds - we would react differently.

And while we offer assistance to the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe in order to ensure their economic stability, how can we not do the same for Jordan? Jordan is asking why we have a double standard with regard to democracy in Eastern Europe as opposed to a similar process in the Middle East. It's a question that deserves to be answered.

matters or face a showdown within his party. Mr Sharon has his eyes on the leadership of the party and of course at becoming Israel's next prime minister.

The issues at hand are clear from Mr Sharon's point of view. They have to do with putting down the Palestinian Uprising, doing away with all attempts to keep the peace process alive in the region and torpedo current efforts to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue under US auspices.

The confrontation was timely. It came in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt making good use of an emotional Israeli public opinion. Also Mr Sharon is betting on current regional and international developments including the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, and the political vacuum created by changes within the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries.



Sharon wiping his sweat as he tenders his resignation

From an Arab point of view the rise of Sharon to power is a dangerous development. If Mr Sharon's calculations are right he can become the new leader of Israel within the coming few months and maybe earlier. Mr Sharon does not hide his positions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian Intifada and the PLO. He is an ardent advocate of the "Jordanian option" and his ambitions have been put to rest in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. For us the Sharon coup should carry an advance warning of the shape of things to come. They don't look good.

View Point

by
Yacoub Jaber

Mr Foller's report

THE "WASHINGTON Post" has proven to be a credible newspaper which speaks the truth and nothing but the truth. There is no reason whatsoever to cast the slightest doubt on the stories of the reputed newspaper.

In a recent issue, the Washington Post quoted both the State and Defence Departments as stating in a joint report that a Palestinian state needs to be set up in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

According to the newspaper, the report has been prepared by Mr Graham Foller, a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) expert who contends that Israel is now worried more than ever over its security, and describes its objections to the establishment of Palestinian state as short-sighted.

Supporters of Israel in Washington must have been shocked by the contents of the report which sharply conflicts with their argument that a Palestinian state is not viable and would constitute a grave threat against Israel and even Jordan. They have been trying hard to convince President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker to ignore Palestinian demands for a statehood.

Mr Foller, in his capacity as a CIA expert, is better informed about the state of affairs in the Middle East than Israel's supporters who echo what they are being told by Israel. They overlook the fact the Palestinian struggle can never cease or de-escalate unless a state on one-fourth of Palestine is set up.

The Palestinians furthermore are unprepared under any circumstances to offer more concessions to the Jewish state. They have already given up three-fourths of their homeland, and are thus not expected to bargain over the remaining one-fourth where they can attain nationhood and live in dignity and peaceful coexistence with their neighbours.

We have been accustomed to reports filed by some American officials in the past who tried to do justice to the Palestinians and persuade their government to follow an even-handed policy in the Middle East. The powerful Jewish lobby usually interferes and justice is never done to the beleaguered Palestinians.

This time the situation may be different. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and Israel's right to exist, and has denounced terrorism. The Bush administration is in a unique position to persuade the Congress and Israel's supporters that it is in Israel's interest to reciprocate to the PLO's moves and take Mr Foller's report very seriously.

Mr Foller's report is worth careful examination by President Bush and Secretary Baker. If the U.S. is sincere in its endeavor to reinstate peace in this region before massive Soviet Jewish emigration makes such peace very hard to achieve, thus giving way to renewed wars that involve Washington and threaten its enormous interests in the region.

The Star

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THE STAR 13

80s economic boom, 90s depression?

By Masood Hilder
Special to The Star

NEW YORK - As anxiety about the global economic outlook in the 1990s grows, a post-mortem examination of the pre-George Bush era, hailed or condemned as the Reaganomics, has preoccupied the financial community.

Two opposing versions of the seven-year period from 1982 to 1989 are juxtaposed against each other as the present is assessed and the future predicted by the pundits. The experts who saw the time as the great boom under President Ronald Reagan now are asking if the boom is over and then answering themselves with an affirmative.

They haven't gone unchallenged, however. The sceptics who questioned the very definition of the era as a 'boom' demand to know when it did occur. As Martin Anderson, a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, would have Americans believe, the boom "is still expanding, setting new records with each passing month." The fact that the official statistics indicate otherwise, and that America has yet to come to grips with its massive budget and trade deficits, does not seem to dampen the enthusiasms of the Reaganomics advocates.

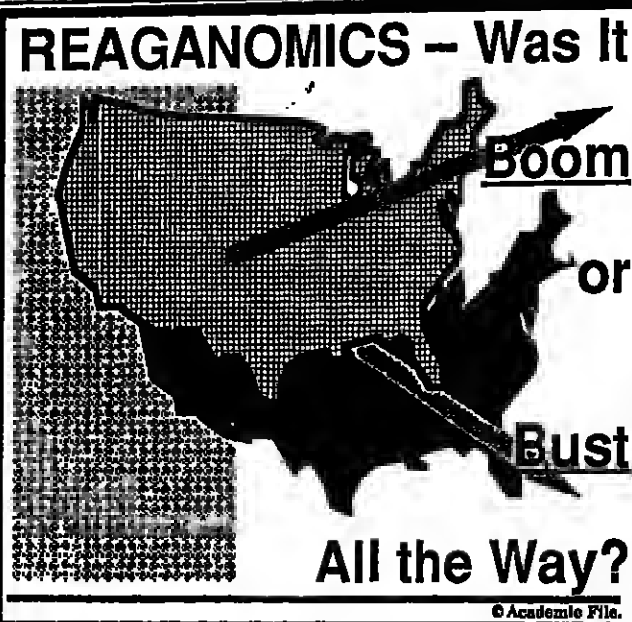
It is indeed official economic statistics again which indicate that despite those huge deficits the seven-year period was the greatest, consistent burst of economic activity ever seen in the United States. In fact, says Anderson, it was the greatest economic expansion the world has

The Reagan era was the greatest boom period in US history, or the worst economic phase since the Depression - depending on which version one's to believe. But the 1990s are clearly going to be different.

ever seen - in any country at any time.

The amount of wealth produced during 1982 to 1989 was a stupendous \$30 trillion in goods and services. A record 18.7 million jobs were created - more than half of them paying more than \$20,000 a year. And a recent study revealed that net asset values including stocks, bonds and real estate went up by more than \$5 trillion between 1982 and 1989, an increase of roughly 50 per cent.

Anderson contends that perhaps the key indicator of an economy's booms and busts is the stock market. And here, indeed, the record has been striking - barring the crash of 1987. During the period from 1970 to 1982, the stock market barely moved. The Standard and Poor's index of 500 stocks inched about 35 per cent during that entire time. But starting in late 1982, just as Reaganomics began to work, the stock market took off



like a "giant sky rocket." The Standard and Poor Index soared, reaching a record high of 360, almost triple what it was in 1982.

While Anderson and other pundits have evidently found cause to gloat over the success of Reaganomics in the 80s, the United Nations International Economic and Social Affairs Committee (ECOSOC) has come out with its own view of the world economic progress and prospects in 1990s, with the warning that a sharp deceleration or a recession

remains a major possibility in the developed market economies.

The main reason for the gloomy outlook is "the persistence of a large United States payments deficit," which ECOSOC observes, has "continued to be a danger to the stability of the world economy."

The United Nations committee points out that while foreign savers have been financing the United States fiscal deficit for a number of years, their continuing willingness to do so at the present scale is not guaranteed. It suggests that the relaxation of tension between East and West and the mutual desire to cut military expenditure provide an opportunity to reduce the deficit by more than what was foreseen a few months ago.

Indeed, the 'no boom' school maintains that the so-called economic progress made by the United States during the Reagan era is overshadowed by the

looming federal and trade deficits which have reached a record high. The federal budget is running a massive \$3 trillion deficit with interest payments alone amounting to \$2 billion a year.

The Reagan tax cuts aimed at the high income groups did produce economic progress, but the backlash of the tax cuts for the rich resulted in more burden on the middle-income groups, and while the poverty level declined statistically the number of homeless people in the United States grew to three million.

Now President Bush, who rides high in popularity polls since the Panama invasion, has decided to call again for capital gains tax reduction, which most economic analysts feel would deepen the deficit crisis. Capital gains tax reduction remains Bush's outstanding election year promise, which he has kept on the back burner, fearing congressional wrath.

The wisdom of making such a tax cut remains a mystery to most of the economic gurus. As one political analyst puts it, instead of grabbing the opportunity provided by the easing of East-West tension and reducing defence expenditure to tackle the deficit, President Bush seems to be running in the opposite direction.

That, and what experts see as other ill-considered moves by the administration, may result in the 90s becoming an era of renewed depression in the United States. As one expert put it, "we might end up asking our grandchildren to finance our deficit."

ulations of Islam. In reality, however, a host of grievances and the official attitudes towards them are arrayed against each other.

A year after these grievances were first aired at the height of Muslim anger over "The Satanic Verses", there is little indication of an accommodation or compromise. Meanwhile, the Muslims are being drawn into increasingly complex arguments about status, class, loyalty, citizenship and their future in Britain. Will they ever extricate themselves from it all? Options differ.

While most of the religious leaders seem to insist that the Muslims "need" them to lead the battle for fulfilment of their demands, the Muslims privately are confused, disdainful of the clerics' interference in their day-to-day pursuits and apprehensive about the future.

Previously the Muslims, like other Britons of African origin, rallied behind constituency leaders, members of Parliament or councillors, who were not at all ways Muslim and Asian. Some of the successful representatives of Asian communities were white who usually got elected on the basis of what they promised and what they delivered.

But the Salman Rushdie affair has made parliament and council irrelevant. It's the mosque leadership which is increasingly seen to have the narrow choice between accepting the new de facto leaders or looking on following the normal channels to council or parliament. In either case, they see a hard fight ahead.

servative Party, the undercurrents of resentment among both Muslim and non-Muslim Britons are strong. The resentment has different roots, however.

As one Asian businessman puts it, "We feel strongly that we are being sandwiched between clerical leaders, whom we do not want as our leaders, and opportunist and prejudiced politicians or civil servants who at last have every excuse for their intolerance." The Muslim political scene has been marked by the rise of an Islamic Party, led by mostly white converts to Islam, which aims to wean Muslim voters away from the secular parties of Britain. The party's rise is cited by non-Muslim Britons as an example of segregationist tendencies among Muslims. The Muslims answer is that the party is a last-resort endeavor to seek redress after instances in which their demands for better representation in the mainstream of British society went unheeded.

On the surface the political battle between Muslim community leaders and the government is still centred on the demand that the book should be banned; and the British blasphemy law, at present concerned only with offences against Christianity, should be extended to include vi-

The Rushdie affair : no end in sight

The so-called Salman Rushdie affair is far from over as the increasing polarisation between Muslim and non-Muslim Britons indicates.

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON - A year after the violent protests over the book, "The Satanic Verses", exploded over their heads, Britain's 1.5 million Muslims see no early end to the controversy or to its dire implications for racial and economic integration in the country. If anything the debate has widened from one over the book to what the media increasingly describe as "a confrontation between Islam and the West."

At a recent private London meeting of Muslim religious leaders, phrases such as "the enemies of Islam" were freely used during condemnation of the British government's failure to ban The Satanic Verses by the Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie. More remarkably, the threat to kill Rushdie was reiterated by the religious leaders of the private session, indicating that the conviction is more deep-seated among these protagonists than generally assumed.

The public threats against Rushdie, for example, were initially interpreted as an attempt by the religious leaders to carve out a constituency for themselves in the disparate community of Muslims of South Asian, Middle

Eastern, Turkish or Cypriot origin. But the private reiteration of the fatwa, issued by Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, showed that the religious leaders had no intention of relinquishing what they increasingly consider as their rightful prerogative to influence and control the direction of events in the Muslim community.

This has divided the Muslims, just as it has widened the gulf between the Muslims, who are mostly nonwhite and of immigrant background, and the majority white community. Few Muslims want to break the law and adhere to - much less help implement - a death threat against Rushdie that some Iranian officials now privately wish had not been issued. But the televised images of Muslim book-burning - even though it concerned what the protesters condemned as blasphemous work - have alienated Muslims in the multicultural milieu of Britain. The last major book-burning in the conscious memory of Britons was conducted by the Nazis in Germany.

Furthermore these images have provided new fuel to the campaign by the National Front and other rightwing groups, official or underground, to brand all

"new Britons" as undesirable. While these undercurrents are seldom reflected in the British media, they coincide with more frequent and organised attacks on nonwhite, particularly Asian, individuals, homes and properties. Attacks on mosques are a more recent feature.

Private conversations with religious leaders who gathered recently in London indicated that few of them were perturbed by the deteriorating community relations and most seemed interested mainly in advancing their constituencies. Questioned about the social costs of the confrontation, one religious leader said, "People have to make sacrifices. They must be prepared for attacks from the enemy." Shabbir Ahmad, a member of the Bradford Council of Mosques, said on any gas chambers were built on European soil, the Muslims would be the first to be fed into them. His remark appeared to have been prompted by graffiti such as "Gas the Muslims."

While the rising tenor of the so-called Muslim leaders' voices has been met with silence or marginal retorts, from hard-line anti-immigrant leaders such as Norman Tebbit, former minister and chairman of the ruling Con-

Unipal seeks to help Palestinians, increase understanding

By a Star Staff Writer

UNIPAL, THE Universities Educational Fund for Palestinian Refugees is making a fresh drive to raise money to sustain its present activities in the occupied territories. Not much is known about this educational charity which works closely with other organisations concerned with helping Palestinians like the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Unipal came into being in 1972 after its founder Eleanor Aiken, a Cambridge teacher, visited the Middle East and was appalled not only by the suffering of the Palestinian refugees, but by the fact that it had continued, increasingly, since 1948 and been largely misrepresented and therefore ignored in the West. She felt that worthwhile help could be given by people in Britain, above all in education.

Her first support came from Cambridge but afterwards other universities and concerned people joined in. Unipal is now funded by donations from individuals as well as by various colleges, trusts and other groups, which sponsor specific projects.

Current sponsors of Unipal, which is based in the United Kingdom, include Lord Adrian, Dr Talal Asad, Sir Alfred Ayer, Lord Caradon, Lord Brockway, Mr Albert Hourani, Dr Dorothy Nodding, Sir John and Lady Richmond, Sir Hugh Casson, Rev. Trevor Huddleston and Baroness Mary Warnock, and others.

What Unipal does

Unipal sees education as a mutual process, involving both giving and receiving. There is not only a need for Palestinians to develop their skills, but also for British and other Westerners to learn about Palestinians: their culture, their history and their present situation, Unipal sources say.

In order to use most fruitfully their limited resources, the fund concentrates on those forms of help that benefit not only individuals, but also communities. They are:

1. Courses in English for Palestinian nurses and teachers;

In view of the desperate need for more well-trained nurses in Lebanon it is from there that Unipal helps Palestinian nurses to come to Britain. The courses arranged for them through the co-operation of British hospitals enable them to return as clinical nurses and so pass on their knowledge and improved skills to nurses still in training.

Teachers of English come in their summer vacation for language courses generously given by language schools there and they are welcomed into English homes. Most of them have never had the chance before to be with English-speaking people, let alone come to England. They gain not only in knowledge and use of the language but in knowledge of the country from which the language sprang, and

new ideas for teaching: all of which benefit their pupils.

British people - nurses and staff in hospital, hosts, teachers and foreign students in the language schools, many of them meeting Palestinians for the first time, earn a great deal from them. Unipal pays for air fares and travel in Britain, and contributes to maintenance.

2. Financial aid for Palestinian educational projects:

There is an urgent need for kindergartens in the continually

Every summer Unipal sends 40 to 60 young people to the Middle East during the long vacation to share their skills with Palestinians. Some participate in manual workcamps or in summer activities with children. But most teach English. Good English is essential for higher education, for most skilled jobs and for international communication. The demand to learn better English is so great among all age groups that the fund also sends out several qualified teachers of

Summer volunteers pay their own fares to the Middle East but Unipal has to pay for the maintenance of some, for local transport and for books; and part of the costs of year-long volunteers.

Unipal volunteers obtain an intimate view of how Palestinians have to live, experience their warmth and friendliness and learn something of their courage in adversity. Many subsequently decide to go on helping Palestinians in other ways.

fairs Group) newsletter has been edited by former volunteers.

The first Quaker Peace and Service (QPS) co-ordinator for their Middle East volunteers programme was originally a Unipal volunteer and a number of QPS volunteers have had their first experience of the Middle East through Unipal.

Returned volunteers have also worked with Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) and in the Middle East section of Amnesty International.

Apart from this, the Unipal experience has awakened volunteers to world needs in general and they have gone on to work with such charities as Oxfam and Marie Stopes International.

Last but by no means least, former volunteers have helped Unipal to continue its own work: by fund-raising (Flag Days, sponsored walks, concerts, etc), interviewing prospective volunteers, helping with Unipal's Palestinian visitors and in the office, and by recruiting fresh volunteers in their universities.

The summer volunteer programme had to be severely restricted. In the West Bank two volunteers taught a few doctors and nurses, and two worked with a women's committee. A medical student worked, gave help and gained experience at the Makassed Hospital on the Mt. of Olives.

In the Gaza Strip the four volunteers could not teach at all: it appears the Israeli military commander forbade the use of UNRWA school premises for classes. However, two other volunteers were able to teach in "Canada" Camp just over the border in Egypt. The people in this camp, forced to move there 15 years ago, have been cut off from friends and relatives in Rafah Camp, situated in the southernmost part of the Strip, ever since the Camp David accords. So they are particularly appreciative when it is shown that they are not forgotten.

The impossibility of carrying out usual summer programme in the West Bank and Gaza has led to Unipal being more active in Jordan and Israel.

Jordan has the largest concentration of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. Ten volunteers taught English to schoolchildren and four worked with children in UNRWA Community Centres for the Disabled.

In Israel Palestinian communities are discriminated against in education as in everything else. Arab Schools are underfunded by the central government, so they are under-equipped and understaffed. English is the second foreign language for the students. Hebrew being the first. Although Palestinians in Israel are on the whole economically better off than most of their compatriots elsewhere, an increased understanding of their situation made volunteers aware of many underlying frustrations. Twenty-four volunteers worked in six different villages, twenty teaching English, four helping on a children's summer camp.



Palestinian children in an UNRWA school and (left) five year old Ikmal in her shroud drawn by Heather Spears.



devastated refugee camps of south Lebanon. Unipal makes a special effort to raise funds for them, earmarking annual Flag Days in various centres for this purpose.

Struggling institutions for disadvantaged children and students in the Israeli-occupied territories receive the fund's support.

Now because of the many Palestinians disabled as a result of the attempt to suppress the Intifada (uprising) in the occupied territories, the fund plans to give support to a training school for physiotherapists - who are urgently needed.

3. The volunteer programme in the Middle East

English as a foreign language on year-long contracts to teach in refugee camps.

In the past the majority of volunteers have gone to the Israeli-occupied territories (West Bank and Gaza). But while the Intifada continues it is not possible, unfortunately, to carry out a normal programme in these territories. However the fund hopes to expand a new project in Jordan which was set up in 1988 in co-operation with UNRWA as Jordan has the largest concentration of Palestinian refugees. It will also continue to send volunteers to Palestinian communities in Israel, educational opportunities for them there being severely limited. This project was started in 1984.

Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) has drawn on ex-volunteers for staff; and the CRAG (CAABU Religious Af-

Insight

By
Dr Nabil Al-SharifA message of
endurance

THE RELEASE of the South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela earlier this week in a momentous symbol of inspiration for oppressed people all over the world. Mandela's struggle, long imprisonment and unwavering dedication to the cause of freedom for his people should be kept alive and turned into a (modern-day legend) to be evaluated by all people who are faced with conditions of tyranny and injustice.

Mandela's release and his dedicated struggle should be of great inspiration to our nation and to the heroic freedom fighters in occupied Palestine. The struggle of the people of Palestine and the struggle of the South African people have a great deal in common. Both people are, resisting the ruthless forces of racism, colonialism and displacement. The racist white circles in South Africa and the Zionist leadership had also are dream in common: to usurp the land, and push its native inhabitants to the limits of desperation or total surrender.

The colonial forces in Israel and South Africa have failed to achieve their narrow minded and racist objectives. But the fact that the South African white leadership is beginning to heed the call of moderation and sanity whereas the Zionist forces are still entrenched in their old positions of hard-headedness and extremism should be causes for optimism rather than desperation, and should enhance our belief in the inevitable victory of our cause. The message of Mandela's release is plain and simple: nothing will ever stand in people's endeavour to regain their confiscated rights and stolen identity.

This message of endurance and liberation has enabled the heroic people of South Africa to start the long process of freedom with sizeable gains, and this same message will prove successful and effective in the Palestinian march towards freedom and victory.

The racist regime of South Africa was one of strongest allies and supporters for the Zionist leaders in Israel; but, now that the heroic people of South Africa have managed to shake off the yoke of colonialism, it is hoped that this African country will soon cut-off all aid to Israel and take its natural role as an ally and supporter of the just struggle of the Palestinian people. Mandela's release is a celebration for the concept of freedom.

By Mark Bruzonsky

THE REVERBERATIONS of the Palestinian Intifada are far and wide, especially among Jews, it seems.

I was a bit startled the other day to find that this was the case even in Germany; a country where the Jewish community is very small, emotionally insecure, and politically weak; and a country where criticism of Israel is still a taboo. Nevertheless, in a suburb of Frankfurt, in a small townhouse, a German Jewish publisher together with a born-in-Australia Holocaust survivor, editor, publish a new magazine.

"SEMIT" they call it. And though its circulation is rather small it's already creating quite a sensation among some Jewish circles in Germany.

Take for instance the most recent cover which has cost them some 70 Jewish subscribers - quite a chunk when your subscription base is measured in less than a few thousands.

The cover is a drawing picturing Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in a cowboy outfit complete with six-shooter pistol and Jewish star on his cowboy hat. In the background there is a collection of bearded Israeli settlers in the traditional European Jewish black Hasidic garb with rifles at the ready.

And the cover caption reads: "Izzy The Kid: And The Wild West Bank".

It should be uplifting to the leaders of the Intifada just how far their message of creative and committed confrontation has gone. Throughout the United States and Europe the Intifada has brought about a rebirth of progressive thought and action among Jews as well as Arabs.

In the United States, for instance, a number of new Jewish groups have come forward. One is called the "Jewish Peace Lobby" and works on Capitol Hill to promote the two-state settlement. A front-group for the Israeli left establishment (elements in Mapam and Labour) as well as Reform Jewry in the United States, and consequently unwilling to challenge American aid to Israel, this group works closely with the PLO in advocating Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and a demilitarised Palestinian State.

Friends of Peace Now in the United States have also become much more active, including a regular newsletter and the services of professional telephone fund-raisers who call up prospective contributors to tell them Peace Now is working for Israeli-PLO talks.

And, of course, the Jewish Committee on the Middle East (JCOME), with which this writer is associated, has taken a far bolder position publishing advertisements recognising the Palestinian declaration of Statehood, calling for an end to the special relationship with Israel, and advocating a major reduction of American military and economic assistance to Israel until the Israelis agree to withdraw from the occupied territories and accept a truly independent Palestinian state.

But back to Germany, which everyone knows is a very apical case for Jews and for Israel.

"SEMIT" is rather slick new

SEMIT
Die unabhängige jüdische Zeitschrift

The cover of SEMIT magazine

publication - it looks a bit like TIME magazine from the cover. Inside it is highly intellectual, a bit irreverent, and certainly the only publication of its kind published by German Jews willing to take on the Zionist myths and speak up loudly against Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

The publisher, Abraham Melzer, was actually born in Israel after his parents fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s. He returned at age 15, some 30 years ago, when his father decided to come back to the country of his birth and found a small publishing company specialising in publications of interest to the remnants of the Jewish community in Germany and surrounding countries.

I asked Melzer when I recently visited with him about the Intifada. And he surprised me by telling me without the Intifada there would not be a "SEMIT". Indeed, a significant part of each issue so far deals with subjects relating to the Intifada.

"Till the Intifada," Melzer told me in his broken English (he speaks German as well as Hebrew fluently), "I was not a very strong Zionist, but I was a Zionist, and I was willing to excuse everything that Israelis would have done believing that they were forced to do it."

"But the Intifada opened up my eyes to see what Israeli people and Jewish people were doing," Melzer continued. "And I didn't believe it, that they could behave in such ways to the Palestinian people and that a lot of Israelis and Jews thought it was OK."

"So thinking about it, and seeing the television about it, I came to the conclusion that I wanted to do something about it, that I cannot

the Intifada, or at least the Arab-Israeli conflict, are at least 50 per cent of the articles in the magazine, and the other 50 per cent are articles about Jewish problems in Germany and other countries."

The other key person at "SEMIT" is the editor, Professor Oswald LeWinter. He has spent most of his life in the United States and has many American characteristics. But he was born some 60 years ago in Austria and had to flee as World War II approached. He returned to Germany just a few years ago when he got married to a younger German woman. And then he ran into Melzer just at the time "SEMIT" was getting launched and needed an energetic editor. Despite his years LeWinter fit right into the job.

"SEMIT" is a kind of fly-by-night operation at the moment. Melzer and LeWinter are struggling to finance each issue which comes out every two months; putting too much effort into funding and thus a bit too little into journalism for their tastes. Still, they've done remarkably well so far. They print only 15,000 copies, most of which are sold on newsstands, but they had new subscriptions coming in daily.

The new subscriptions and letters of praise are coupled, of course, with a barrage of abuse. It's not easy to do what Melzer and LeWinter are doing; but it's a labour of love for them... a labour of necessity as well.

And so, here in Frankfurt, there is a new Jewish magazine, "SEMIT", that is another result of the Intifada. Just as the play "Seeing Double" that has been touring the United States and which so humorously yet seriously promotes the two-state solution. Just as Dan Almagor's unique poems. Just as "JCOME" and the Jewish Peace Lobby, etc.

The reverberations of the Intifada are indeed both far and wide.

Foreign Report talks of a
Syrian-Israeli meeting

AMMAN (Star) - A secret meeting has taken place between well-connected Israelis and senior Syrian officials, according to the reliable foreign report.

The subject of this meeting, Foreign Report said in its last issue, was the peace settlement.

It said that, the Israeli-Syrian meeting took place three to four months ago.

Syria was represented by former government officials with close links to the armed forces,

while the Israeli side was unknown, but those involved were probably not officials, said Foreign Report.

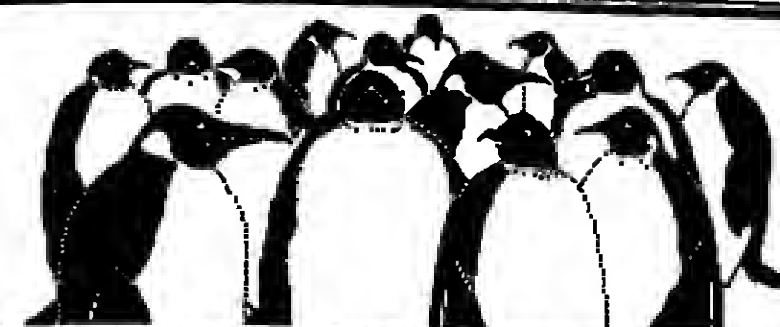
The idea was apparently to set up an indirect channel for contacts between the two sides the fell short of direct and formal negotiations.

The goal was to seek some kind of understanding between Israel and Syria, the weekly newsletter said.

Wanted

Creative graphics designers to work for The Star on Macintosh computers. Previous experience preferred. Job is demanding only serious applicants should contact: Editor, Telephone 648298, Amman, between 10:30 am and 4 pm Saturday through Monday.

15 FEBRUARY 1990



Around Town



Wet engagement

A VERY wet engagement was witnessed by undersea creatures of the Aqaba bay on 27 January, when Jordanian doctor Hani Hattar was engaged to Birgitta Hemmingsson, a Swedish special teacher, under 8 metres of sea water. Hattar is a member of a number of athletic clubs including the Royal Diving Centre in Aqaba. Congratulations!

Princess Ayah born
to Faisal, Alia

THE ROYAL court announced Sunday that Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal delivered a girl. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Princess Alia named the newborn Ayah. "The Royal Court likes to express its warmest wishes and congratulations on this happy occasion and may God keep the dear Princess in the care of her parents under His Majesty King Hussein," the Royal Court said in the statement.

Mr John Standen, of North East Satellite Systems, in the United Kingdom, has recently arrived in Jordan to supervise

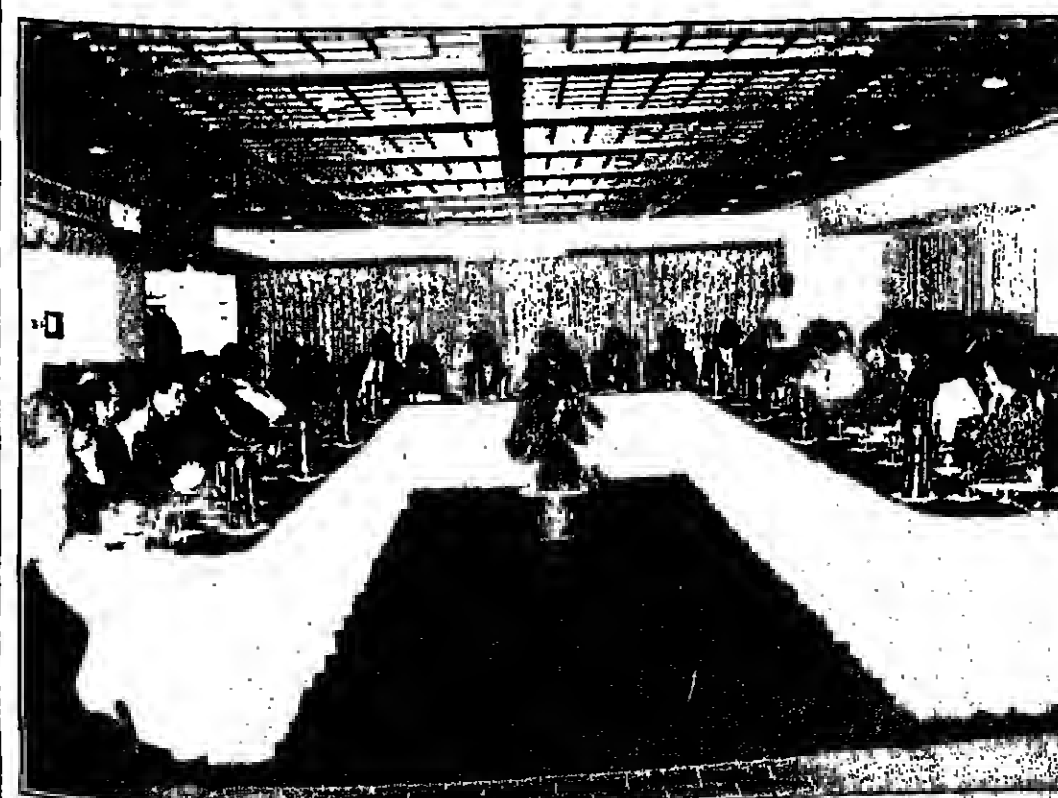
the installation of a satellite receiver system at the Department of Meteorology's National Forecast Centre in Marka. On Wednesday, along with Mr Malcolm Ives Development Secretary at the British Embassy he met with Dr Ali Abandah, Director General of the Meteorology Dept. The system comprising a satellite dish, two receivers, two microcomputers, with monitors and a colour printer is valued at 80,000 pound and is a gift from Britain to the government of Jordan.

Once operational, the equipment will receive data direct from METEOSAT which will greatly improve the information available on the other systems, particularly in the more remote parts of

the Kingdom. The equipment will also help identify areas likely to be susceptible to locust infestations.

Mr Fahid Makhrok of the Meteorological Department has recently spent 3 months at Reading University on training to use the equipment.

● The annual gala party for secretaries working at diplomatic missions, tourist agencies, airlines, government departments and commercial companies was held Thursday at Hotel Jerusalem International, which is hosted by the hotel every year. Everybody had a nice time as the "Survivors" musical band played its latest tunes.



AT THE invitation of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and Royal Jordanian, Amman Plaza Hotel received an Irish tourism delegation currently on a visit to Jordan. The delegation met with Mr Nasir Al-Talib, General Secretary of the ministry, who briefed members of the delegation on Jordan's tourism movement and plans to develop the tourism industry in the country. He also discussed ways to encourage Irish tourists to visit Jordan. The delegation will visit Jordan's main historic sites.

15 FEBRUARY 1990

Scrapbook

No to the labour ban

THE MINISTER of Labour's decision to stop issuing labour permits to foreign newcomers is a step in the wrong direction where the problem of unemployment is concerned. It is wrong because instead of getting rid of the problem, the decision will only succeed in making it worse.

The employers of Ma'an were quick to voice their disapproval of the Minister's decision. They brought forth examples of how they will be affected by the Ministry's ban.

The problem of unemployment in Jordan is basically a structural one, which means that you may have thousands of unemployed Jordanians, not because the jobs have been taken by foreigners, but because there simply isn't room for them in the local labour market. A clear example of this fact are the thousands of unemployed doctors and engineers.

So not only has the decision been taken hastily by the Minister, it had exacerbated an already critical situation by depriving Jordanian shopkeepers, farmers and manufacturers of readily-available cheap labour, which has no local competition. It makes sense to me to resort to imported labour when there is a shortage in local labour.

The second point which one could raise is this: As long as the mentality of the Jordanian worker has not undergone real change, we will continue to rely on imported labour. Many Jordanian employers have advertised in the local papers, in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Labour, asking for Jordanian waiters, carpenters, shawarma experts, cleaners, janitors and others... with little luck. The fact is not many Jordanians would like to do such tasks because they consider them humiliating, even though most of them pay better than a government post. Even the Ministry of Labour would verify this fact since its employment offices also advertise regularly announcing the availability of jobs which Jordanians consider either low-paid or demeaning.

So the problem has a social aspect to it too. I am sure that educational experts would like to pitch in and give us some insights on the flows in our educational system.

The Ministry of Labour has attempted to deal with the horse even before deciding on the cart. Banning foreign labour is not the easy way out. If it was we would have done it a long time ago. Listen to what the employers in Ma'an and other Jordanian cities are saying. It makes sense.

Someh Al Khatib

Canal-France-
International
Received by JordanBy Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

On February 8, 1990 Jordan was the first Arab country to receive a four-hour satellite transmission via Canal-France-International (CFI). The newly-installed seven-metre in diameter satellite dish enables Jordan Television to receive incoming programmes dispatched from CFI in France.

In the coming three months Syria and Egypt will follow Jordan's suit. Twenty-four African countries receive CFI transmission in addition to Romania.

The French programmes coming to Jordan are divided into three categories: The first is sports, the second documentaries and educational films and the third includes movies and drama series. Jordan television first records the in-coming programmes and then presents them to its viewers after the necessary modifications. The Arabic channel benefits from this agreement too since films can be subtitled or dubbed in Arabic.

Speaking at a press conference Mr Fouad Benhalla, president of CFI, said that Jordan has asked for 30 per cent exclusivity rights of the programme hours which

are broadcast. He added that an agreement has been reached whereby Jordan will have priority, but not exclusivity, at least in the coming four months. Every 15 days Jordan Television is sent a list from which the station can choose films suitable to the region.

For the moment, Mr Benhalla explained that these services are free of charge and are financed by the French government. The French Ambassador to Jordan, Mr Denis Bouchard, said that France has been co-operating with Jordan Television for more than 12 years "in an atmosphere of confidence created through the excellent political ties between the two countries."

Mr Benhalla said that the best programmes produced in France are chosen and bought for Jordan Television's French programme. CFI buys French films to be aired to member countries. Film prices range from \$5,000 for African countries to \$2,500 for Jordan.

Next to France, the United States is the only other source of films for CFI, which is a shareholding company in which the French government has the largest percentage.

THE STAR 17



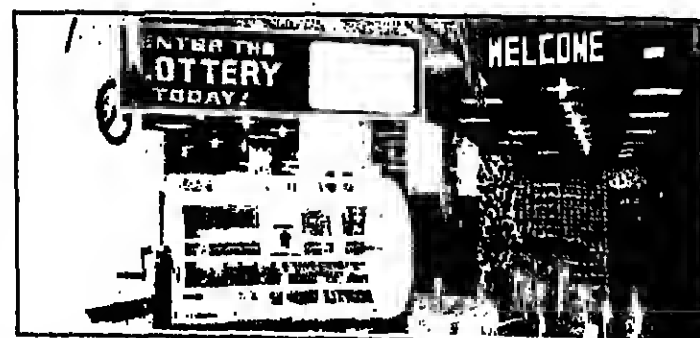
AMMAN'S FIRST American-style doughnut shop was opened Saturday by American Ambassador to Jordan Mr Roscoe Suddarth. Mister Donut, an American chain, is serving more than 20 kinds of doughnuts ranging from plain cinnamon-flavoured cakes to the exotic coconut buns. The franchise was obtained by the Jordanian owner Mr Mahmoud Al Ghalaleni who hopes to expand in the near future. For those not familiar with the round-shaped dough, the Oxford Concise Dictionary says it is a cake of dough sweetened and boiled in fat.



ROYAL JORDANIAN'S Saqr al Urdun (Falcon of Jordan) maintained its lead in the Malaysia International Air Race after winning the third part between Dhaka and Langkawi. The three-man crew flying a Piper 602 had earlier last week won the first two parts of the race which began in Paris. Two awards have been given to the Jordanian team, one for taking the first place and the second for crossing the distance in less than the official time giving them an extra 11 points. The RJ crew are Captain Erick Ledger, assistant pilot Rakan Nasser and photographer Mazen Fanous. On Wednesday 7 February the crew came first place in the Paris-Bahrain leg of the race. They were congratulated by His Majesty King Hussein. The third phase of the race will cover Singapore to Johor Bahru and then to New Delhi, Dubai and arriving in Amman on 23 February. The teams will spend three days in Jordan before continuing their race to Paris on 26 February where the race will end. Taking part in the race are France, Malaysia, Belgium, the UAE, Britain and Switzerland.

Silverman replaces Driscoll at the American Centre

The US Cultural Attache in Jordan Mr Claude Young Jr. held a reception Wednesday to bid farewell to Ms Ann Driscoll of the American Centre and to introduce the new Director of Programmes at the Centre Mrs Vicki Silverman. While in Jordan, Ms Driscoll helped organise a number of interesting cultural programmes. She will be missed by her friends.



Many prizes are for the taking at Al Waha Stores this month. A lottery is on with valuable prizes for the lucky winners. Free gifts are also given away to visitors. Just fill a form at the stores and may be you will get lucky. The contest will end 28 February.

Wanted

A London-based Arab publishing house requires first-class Arabic to English translators to work from Amman. Previous experience is essential. Good pay. Send full details, samples of published work and bio-data to London Publishers, c/o P O Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

The Vice President of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) for Middle East Relations Mr Wafa Nasr arrived in Jordan last Saturday on a tour of the region which will take him to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Mr Nasr will be meeting with members of ADC's chapter in Jordan to explain recent achievements of Americans of Arab descent in the United States. Last year the American Congress unanimously approved a resolution designating 25 October 1989 as National Arab-American Day.

Mr Nasr will meet with supporters of ADC Thursday at the World Affairs Council (WAC) and will meet with the general assembly of the Jordan Chapter early next month according to chapter member Mr Nidal Shuklati. Mr Nasr will also call for a fund-raising campaign to support ADC activities in the United States. He said ADC has achieved a lot during the last 10 years mainly in explaining Arab causes and fighting stereotyped images of the Arabs in the United States. He added that support of the Palestinian intifada has been an important aim of ADC.

Mr Francis Keenan, General Manager of the Amman Marriott hotel for almost two years has awarded the hotel's staff as well as the community at large a great victory.

Mr Keenan has been named Best General Manager of the year for Marriott Corporation's International region, thus bringing the name of the Amman Marriott to the attention of many people all over the world.

One of Mr Keenan's major accomplishments is Amman Marriott's successful implementation of the Quality Improvement Process, which reached all levels of the hotel, affecting the workers as well as the guests.

Upon informing Mr Keenan of his valuable award, Mr Terry Barlow Vice President of Marriott Corporation expressed his sincere gratitude to Keenan saying: "Frank has been instrumental in making the Amman Marriott a role model in quality improvement for all other hotels to follow."

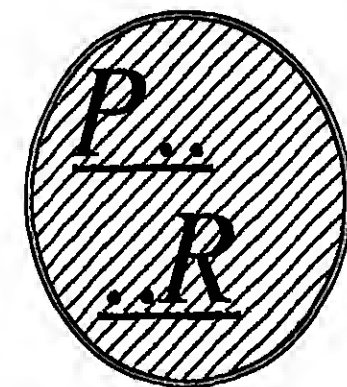
Mr Keenan, who was pleasantly surprised by this event, attributed the success to his dedicated Amman team saying: "I couldn't have done it without the commitment and support of the Amman Marriott employees."



Frank Keenan

ed the success to his dedicated Amman team saying: "I couldn't have done it without the commitment and support of the Amman Marriott employees."

A reception was held Tuesday at the residence of the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to bid farewell to councillor and



Australian meat butcher, Andrew Ralph, will visit three Gulf countries for one month to demonstrate techniques to local butchers and catering establishments.

He arrived in Bahrain last week and participated at MEFEX 90, The Sixth Middle East Food and Equipment Show which took place at Bahrain's Exhibition Centre from February 10 to 13.

The show incorporated the prestigious salon culinaire, a competition showcase for professionals in the culinary industry. The competition is sponsored by the Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation (AMLC).

Mr Ralph discussed and demonstrated butchering techniques at the show where more than 300 food companies from over 30 countries participated.

What's on at the Marriott

Wednesdays: Steak Special in the newly reopened Al Walima Restaurant.

Thursdays: Mexican Night in Al Mansaf Restaurant. Everyone's favourite Mexican dishes from chile con carne to burritos and fajitas, etc.

Saturdays: Chinese Night in Al Mansaf.

Sundays: The best of Italy: the Marriott's special Italian buffet with fresh homemade pasta.

Fresh Express: Every weekday at lunchtime, Al Mansaf Restaurant features a special lunch buffet for the executive on the go: lunch will be prepared a la minute, so you don't have to wait, and lunch hasn't been waiting for you! Al Mansaf: noon-3:30 pm, every weekday.

Mrs Kynung-Bo Shim and to meet the new defence attaché Lt Colonel Young-Nam Lee. The Korean Ambassador and Mrs Tae Jin Park played generous hosts to a throng of friends and acquaintances of the Shims, among them Mr and Mrs Walid Durra, Mrs Christine Mangu, Mrs Gladys Boeker and Mrs Amina Al Hussein.

The Regional Manager of Jordan's Egypt Air operations Mr Farouk Hafez said Egypt Air is now operating 23 weekly flights from Cairo to capitals of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) countries.

He said modern Air Bus and Boeing aircraft are operating on these lines to serve thousands of daily passengers.

He added Farouk Hafez that these services come out of Egypt Air's deep belief in its role in supporting brotherly ties among the member countries of the ACC. Egypt's Air agents in Jordan are Za'atara and Co. who have been involved in the travel agency business for over two decades.



Films

The American Center presents the feature film "Sophie's Choice" starring Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline and Peter MacNicol. Thursday 25 February at 7:00 pm.

The French Cultural Centre presents the feature film "Le Lieu du crime" starring André Tschine, Victor Lanoux and Danielle Durieux. Wednesday 21 February at 8:00 pm.

Lectures

Mr Ghazi Saudi will deliver a lecture in Arabic on "The national strategy for archaeology and cultural resources" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. Saturday 17 February at 6:00 pm.

The Goethe Institute presents Dr Mohammad Atallah of Yarmouk University who will lecture on "The development of the Dead Sea." Tuesday 20 February at 7:00 pm.

The British Council presents a lecture by Nelly Lama on "Modern British Sculptures." Tuesday 20 February at 6:00 pm.

Wedlock

★ Suhail Kamel Haddad to Akram Farid Elias Haddad
★ Mary Shahbati to Hani Haddad
★ Amal Qatani to Imad A. A. A.
★ Eman Sarhan to Mahmoud Shalabi
★ Widad Assad to Samir A. A.

15 FEBRUARY 1990

German couple go panning for gold in Ancient Egypt - and discover it, too

GOLD DUST lined the streets of Egypt, or so people in the Ancient World who traded with Egypt were firmly convinced.

The Ancient Egyptians didn't just make ornaments and artefacts of gold to fill the burial chambers of the pharaohs.

They traded gold in exchange for timber and spices and for everything they needed to import. For millennia gold was one of their most important export commodities.

How surprising it is that in their inscriptions on stone and their papyrus records a people who testified to their way of life in such detail failed to make more than the briefest mention of the sources of this gold.

An Alexandrian, Agatharchides, wrote in about 200 BC what he had learnt at second hand about gold mining.

Yet he wrote more about the hardship of the women and children who worked in the mines than about the techniques of mining the yellow metal.

A Munich couple, Egyptologist Rosemarie Klemm and geologist Dietrich Klemm, are now trying to unearth the secrets of Ancient Egypt's gold mines.

Their starting point was a passage in the Turin papyrus, a topographical sketch over 3,000 years old that found its way to Italy in the 19th century and is now on exhibit at the Egyptian Museum in Turin.

In Egyptian script the houses of the gold miners' settlement, the road network and a well are also marked on the chart.

The well enabled scientists to locate the site many years ago. It is near modern Bir Um Fawakhir, between Wadi Hammamat and Wadi es-Sid, about 100 km east of Luxor.

Rosemarie and Dietrich Klemm were interested in an entirely different reference on the papyrus, the area marked as "the mountains where gold was washed."

How can you wash for gold without water in the middle of the desert? "That didn't sound at all likely," Frau Klemm says, but



Gold had an almost religious value in ancient Egypt

they were curious.

She and her husband used aerial photographs to identify the area and there found remains of Ancient Egyptian gold miners.

That was four years ago. The Klemms have since extended their research to the central and northern parts of Egypt's Great Eastern Desert.

The surviving traces of walls dating back to miners' settlements are mainly Roman. "Yet if you look at the individual stones more closely," Frau Klemm

says, "you will find they include fragments of mills where Pharaonic miners ground gold ore thousands of years earlier."

Holes and shafts the Ancient Egyptians dug in the "mountain of gold" are still clearly identifiable.

"The small and primitive mine workings run along the numerous quartz seams that line rock formations in this part of the Egyptian desert. Gold has been enriched in them in the course of millions of years."

Important pointers to the depths to which ore was mined are provided by remnants of tools dating back to various periods that the Klemms have been able to date exactly.

It is surprising that the Ancient Egyptians found traces of gold in the first place. They are barely visible to the naked eye, only a hundredth of a millimetre thick in the rock formations.

The gold traces are so tiny that miners had to grind the ore to

dust once they had chiselled it free and hammered it down.

In the middle of the second millennium BC Pharaonic miners still used simple mills: slabs of stone on which a second slab was turned, grinding the ore into dust.

Even in those days there was very little water in the Great Eastern Desert, so it is surprising that the Pharaonic, Ptolemaic and Roman miners all washed the gold out of the powdered rock, as indicated in the Turin papyrus.

This is demonstrated, and at the very spot indicated on the papyrus, by the presence of quartz sand heaps near the mine workings.

Where there were no wells nearby water was presumably brought to the site in leather bags, but this has not been proved. Neither has the way in which miners washed their gold.

But they may also have panned the pulverised rock until the quartz grains were washed away, leaving fine gold dust.

And that was the stuff with which other peoples in the Ancient World felt the streets of Egypt must be lined.

The Far Side

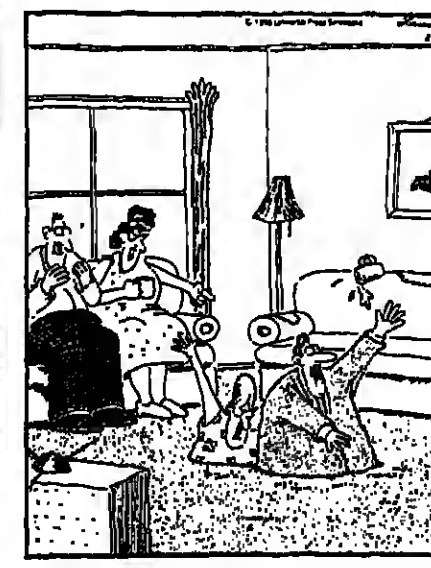
By GARY LARSON



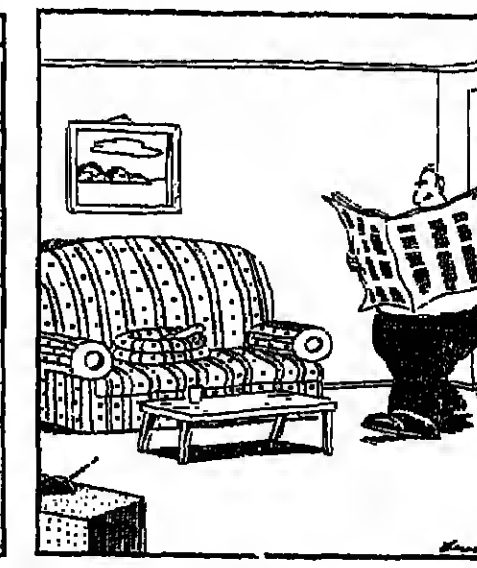
"This is no use, Wanda. It's like they say — we just don't have lips."



Animal lure.



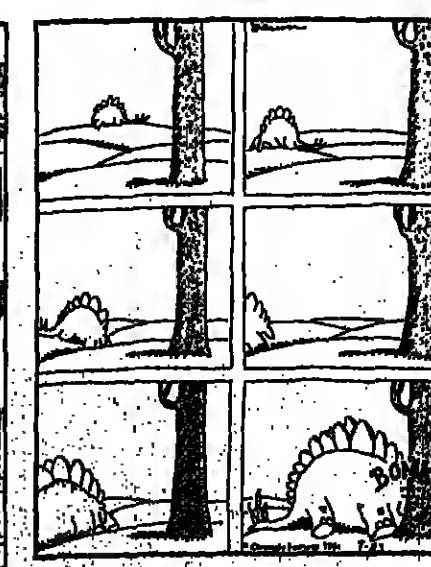
And down they went: Bob and Franchise — two more victims of the La Brea Carpel.



The deadly couch cobra — coiled and alert in its natural habitat.



"Well, there he is, Bobby — Big Red. Sure he's tough, but if you can ride him, he's yours."



Dinosaur spinal capacity



"Wait! Spare me!... I've got a wife, a home, and over a thousand eggs laid in this jelly!"

Programmes of Jordan Television from 17 to 23 February

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Annie McGuire, "The Journey": Annie agrees to take care of her aged former neighbour, Franci, for a few days and winds up driving her to Virginia to help her up some of her life's loose ends.
9:00 - Good Evening Jordan: A documentary spotlighting some of the instruments of hospitality, deep rooted in Jordanian culture.
9:30 - Classical Music.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Feature: Nightmare at 11:15: A group of women making a trip through a forest face a horrifying nightmare.

SUNDAY

8:30 - Who's the Boss "Just Mono and Me": An intricate story of emotions and true love.
9:10 - Space Flight "The Territory Ahead (Ep. 4)": The continuing story of invading outer space: successes, failures, catastrophes.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Gums, Set & Match: Ep. 12. A warning from Soviet defector Stinson - a university spy cell is leaking Star Wars technical secrets to the East. Bernard Samson takes the Russian at his word, and with the help of M6 assistant Gloria Kent, introduces the ex-KGB officer to the academic serenity of an Oxford College.

MONDAY

8:30 - Empty Nest, "Green Eggs and Honey": A young boy's experience with nightmares.
9:10 - Not scheduled.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Midnight Caller, "Tarnished Shield": In this episode of the Night Caller, Jack Kellan handles corruption at the police Department.

TUESDAY

8:30 - Mr Belvedere: Owen is determined to follow the steps of Florence Nightingale... work as a nurse in a hospital.
9:10 - Mother Love (Part IV): The story of a mother's love for her son, which verges on insanity.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Hunter, "On Air": Hunter takes a mad lover... who is in love with a radio announcer.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - The Nut House, "The Accidental Groom": The housekeeper is threatened with deportation from the United States as an illegal immigrant... unless she manages to marry on... American.

THURSDAY

8:30 - A different world: An annual celebration... and a special party.
9:10 - Basketball.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Movie of the week: Stage Fright: Marlene Dietrich, Jane Wyman, Alfred Hitchcock, back in an English setting for the first time in over a decade directs an uneven story.



Thirty something, Friday, 9:10

ry about a young man suspected of murdering an actress's husband.

FRIDAY

8:30 - Coach: Lack of discipline is the problem faced by Coach Haden.
9:10 - Thirty something: Payments Due: Elynn is suffering from what she thinks is indigestion. The developer for the Southside Redevelopment Project, which Elynn is co-ordinating, could be indicted which would jeopardise the entire project. Elynn meets and flirts with Dave Callaghan from the D.A.'s office who is investigating the developer. Dinner that evening at the Steadman's is tense as Elynn makes a vicious comment about Michael's business failure and manages to insult everyone, including Woodman, her lover.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - First Among Equals, Episode Eight, "Simon's new post as the Conservative Minister of State for Northern Ireland begins to put pressure on his home life when the most routine of matters gets Special Branch scrutiny.

FRENCH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

5:10 - Champs Elysees: A variety programme presented by Michel Drucker. The quest of honour this week: Abbe Pierre who is the founder of the Emmaus Community and a renowned humanitarian who never stopped to help the poor and to give them support. Along with this great man Michel Drucker receives Catherine Lara, Jean Luc Lahaye and many others.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Sauvage et Beau: A documentary about wild life.

SUNDAY

6:00 - Tel Pere Tel Film: A comedy series. Upon his return from the Amazon jungle Olivier brings home a contagious disease. All his family, neighbours and friends are infected. His illness does not preserve him from trouble or from comic situations.
6:15 - L'Ecole Des Faux: A programme for children by Jacques

Martin. His guest for this week: Andre Verchuren, the famous accordion player.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Aujourd'hui En France: A cultural magazine about Alberto Matta and his philosophy which is expressed in his paintings.

MONDAY

6:00 - Arsene Lupin Joue Et Pard: A drama series: Arsene Lupin's friends find Pierre Leduc who is really dead or wasn't he?
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - The Weekly Sports Magazine.

TUESDAY

5:45 - Lucifair/7: A programme for children. George tries to realise his idea in turning the farm into a night club but without Daniel's approval his idea cannot be executed. But Daniel has already made it to France and met with his sister Liz.
6:10 - Des Chiffres Et Des Lettres: A game show.
6:35 - L'Appart/28: A comedy series.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Aujourd'hui En France: A local magazine by Saleh Madi.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 - Le Vagabond Des Etalles: A documentary about satellites and communications in our modern times.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - French Varieties.

THURSDAY

6:10 - Tel Pere Tel Film: A comedy series.
6:30 - La Chance Aux Chommes: A variety programme by Pascal Sevran.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - A documentary to be announced later.

FRIDAY

5:00 - Des Chiffres Et Des Lettres: A game show.
5:20 - Les Enquetes De Commissaire Maigret: L'Auberge aux Noyes. In a private visit outside Paris Maigret is dragged into an investigation of a murdered old singer.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Luna Luna Luna: A documentary.

Hollywood Stars speak

Michael Keaton/Tim Burton: The Batman team



EDITOR'S NOTE: The casting of Michael Keaton in the role of "Batman" drew a storm of criticism from longtime fans of the comic-book hero. They protested that the actor didn't fit the image of the muscular caped wonder. Their objections were soon drowned out by the mammoth response to the film. Keaton's film work had largely been associated with quirky comedy in films such as "Night Shift" (his debut), "Mr. Mom" and "Johnny Dangerously". He displayed his talent for wild, wacky comedy in "Beetlejuice" as a frenetic banshee. The actor was joined in an interview by Tim Burton, who directed both "Beetlejuice" and "Batman".

Q: You knew that there were certain risks coming into play in "Batman"?
A: As an actor, clearly, yes. I knew that. The other things - are you talking about the protests and all the people ranting and raving? I did not quite get involved. I had heard something, but it did not seem like a big deal to me. I am still, actually, shocked/fascinated. These people, I am telling you, must have the same lobbyists as the NRA (National Rifle Association), because these guys have got some clout. I cannot believe it. I mean, how many are there? I find it amazing that anyone takes it all that seriously, to be real honest with you. And I find that it goes past. It is just funny to me. I never had time to get angry about it, because we were working in England, and we missed a lot of it until I came back. Then it came. There was no reason to be angry about it. I was most fascinated by it.

Q: They wanted Schwarzenegger to play the role?
MK: I guess so. See, I had no frame of reference. **TB:** I can answer that. It is because comic book people are very specific. They have a very strong image in their minds. I have to say that it is a real source of argument, because every comicbook fan has a different opinion. So that is why when we went into it, we just decided to be true to it but to do our own thing, also. We were not interested in changing the myth of Batman or the history of it, or anything. But we also just wanted to do our own thing and still be true to it.

Q: Did you have to quell some of the usual Keaton ebullience for this role?
MK: Yes, I guess, a bit. I always do whatever the role requires. I try to take a different role everytime, a different character. I try to vary it as much as I can, but still stay true to the character, not to vary it just to vary it. Tim and I had a conversation about this with Jack (Nicholson). The guy (Batman) was clearly more powerful if he was very brutal. Also, as Jack said to me one day in make-up, he said, "Just let the wardrobe act, kid." Because there is so much of it, there was great wisdom in that statement. So I did the best I could. The real power came from inside and came in the eyes. It sometimes came from what he did not do. So, yes, sometimes my natural tendency was in to more because you sometimes fear that you are not doing enough. Sometimes you are not, but very often you are doing just fine. The more I do, the longer I am an actor, I discover how less is more. I actually always kind of knew it. It is just that in the beginning I seemed to have tapped into something until I worked it. I always will work it when necessary.

Q: Tim, when did Nicholson come into the picture and how?
TB: I met him probably in early summer, and we started shooting in October. I met with him several times, and I think that when you are doing, because it could go a thousand different ways. It is very important to Jack, because a lot of the groundwork is set up long before he ever walks on the set. So we had several meetings discussing the tone, what we were doing, the character. That process takes a couple of months, something like that. When I first met him, I really liked him, but as he started doing little things, smiles and stuff, that is when I started to get really worried. Because the more I met him, the more I thought that he was just so perfect. He would flash a little giggle, and I just saw the Joker so clearly. Those were very important times, actually.

Q: You could get lost in a Nicholson picture, Michael.
MK: You do, because there is so much Jack in Jack that if he wanted to inject himself with something to dilute it, he could not. He has just got so much personality. In fact, people who are praising him say that Jack does his kind of Jack thing. What I saw is a very distinct, specific character, but because he has so much personality, some people have an awful lot of personality and an awful lot of power - and he does. So what happens is that he comes out, and he cannot do a thing about it. It appears as though you are seeing Jack doing a Jack thing, but what is going on is a very clear character who happens to be in the body of Jack Nicholson, who is a very large personality.

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Queen Alia Airport (08)53200
15 FEBRUARY 1990

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Qatar	974
Romania	40
Bucharest 0	
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Dammam 3	
Jeddah 2	
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Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Welbeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Welbeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrusanta Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Welbeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

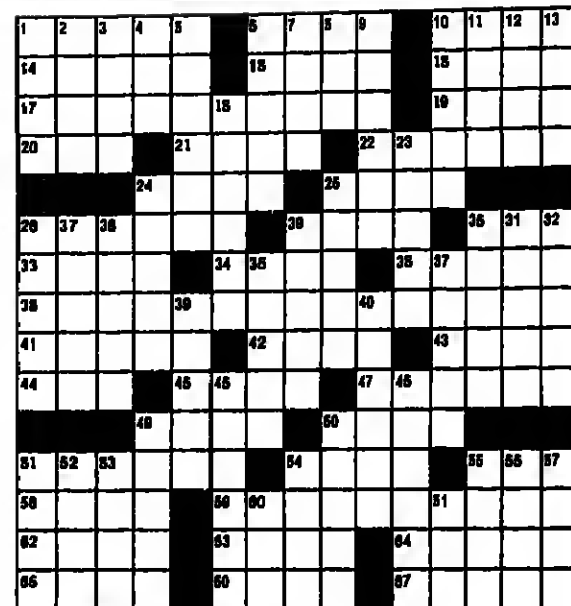
Amman International Church: (interdenominational) meets at ~~Eastern~~ Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 827981

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq Tel. 811295.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Envelope parts
- 6 Thick slice
- 10 Whittle away
- 14 Profile
- 15 Compel to go
- 16 Leisistek
- 17 Facing trouble
- 19 Gown material
- 20 Pipe joint
- 21 Treble
- 22 Ronier
- 24 Rozalle or
- 25 Contemptible
- 26 Red wine
- 28 — site
- 29 Taking up
- 33 Fr. composer
- 34 Tand
- 36 Impressionist
- 38 Facing trouble
- 41 Poison's home
- 42 Nimbua
- 43 Abound
- 44 Offer
- 45 Geneale name
- 47 Plays the
- 48 Polleh river
- 50 Rank
- 51 Method
- 54 Frel
- 55 Bohaa or
- 56 Peasion
- 59 Facing trouble
- 62 Fashion
- 63 Magazine
- 64 Fiber plant
- 65 Copycat
- 66 Mamo
- 67 Lived

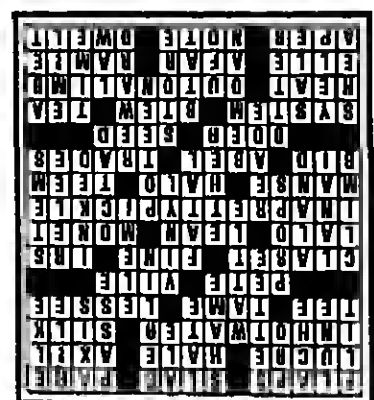


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DOWN

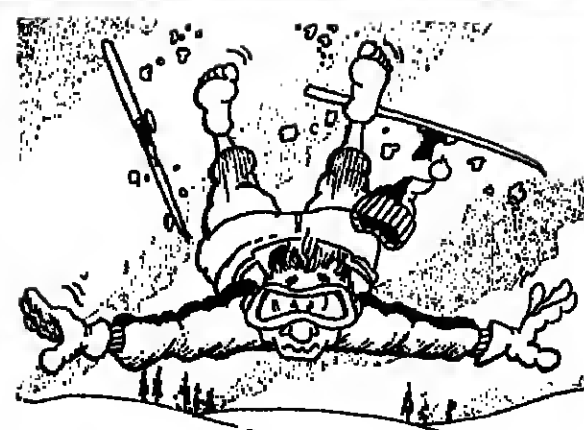
- 1 Hop around
- 2 "Clair de —"
- 3 Yeam
- 4 In favor of
- 5 Sole
- 6 Ignominy
- 7 Overdue
- 8 Beverage
- 9 Divided city
- 10 Outmoded
- 11 WWI group
- 12 Nettle
- 13 Ma Sommer
- 18 Turkey feature
- 23 Vornish sealn
- 24 Siege item
- 25 Plastic base
- 26 Shiny
- 27 Hawaiian
- 28 — flowing
- 29 Daedyl
- 30 Signed
- 31 Confederate
- 32 Arleese
- 35 Heavens
- 37 Group of eight
- 38 Eng. author
- 40 In. whiskey
- 46 Espresso grif
- 48 Saffely
- 49 Playful sea
- 50 Cache
- 51 Meta' place
- 52 Shall cry
- 53 Vendition
- 54 Date: abbr.
- 56 Clock
- 58 Jannings of
- 59 Asalet
- 60 Space object
- 61 Statula

Solution



Sports Hall of Shame

by Nash & Zullo



IN 1959, CHUCK RYAN SET THE UNOFFICIAL RECORD FOR THE LONGEST SKI JUMP WITHOUT SKIS. WHEN RYAN HIT THE TAKEOFF OF THE 60-METER SLIDE AT THE DULUTH INVITATIONAL, BOTH HIS SKIS FLEW OFF HIS FEET!

CHUCK SOARED 148 FEET BEFORE CRASH-LANDING. FORTUNATELY, ONLY HIS EGO WAS INJURED.

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JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Avoid those who cry the financial blues. Or remind them that you have your own family to look after. You still have great rapport with a former college roommate or romantic partner. Perform more services for yourself to reduce expenses. Tips from experts will help you make better decisions regarding stocks and bonds. An older person is willing to act as a sounding board.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): You will probably be more productive if you work at home this week. A call from a student boosts your spirits. You are very proud of the way this young person has matured. Creative financing and innovative thinking are important this week. Self-improvement projects enjoy favorable influences. A parent-child conflict can be ironed out after a candid chat.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Do not begrudge someone's good fortune. Ask your mate or business partner questions. The answers could astound you. End a relationship that is unrewarding. A financial windfall is possible. Take advantage of an unusual business opportunity. Pay attention to details often overlooked by your competitors and you will land new contracts.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): You and your mate can do pretty much as you please this week. Visit neighbors, but telephone first. Long trips are best postponed. Make needed purchases but avoid spending more than you can afford. Work at a faster pace to meet a deadline - your reputation could be at stake. Job-related research deserves top priority. A library visit can be productive. Romance is sweet.

LEO (23 July - 22 Aug): Grades rise once students find themselves. Extracurricular activities enjoy favorable influences. Get involved in a community project you feel strongly about. Romantic partner's words are revealing. Talking things over with a trusted friend or relative gives you practical ideas for handling a financial dilemma. Shopping bargains abound. Examine merchandise with special care if all sales are final.

VIRGO (23 Aug. - 22 Sept.): Make "caution" your watch word and play a waiting game. Someone has a secret angle or ulterior motive. Refuse to be rushed into signing agreements and contracts. Check and recheck facts and figures. A spur-of-the-moment trip could be great fun. Choose a traveling companion who shares your interests. Your charm has a wonderful effect on an attractive member of the opposite sex.

LIBRA (23 Sept. - 22 Oct.): Someone on a fixed income receives a cost-of-living increase. You will make new friends while entertaining for business purposes. Set aside more time to spend with your children. Romance makes you smile! Get an early start this week. An important decision must be made. Devote more time to creative and artistic projects: they could be a source of extra income. A friend is the bearer of good news.

SCORPIO (23 Oct. - 21 Nov.): A positive mood should prevail this morning. Business gets a boost from distant events. If there is friction at home, compromise. Romance will flourish once you feel more settled. A powerful source of inspiration prevails. A self-improvement project will be more successful than you imagine. A startling discovery will put you in line for a raise or promotion.

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov. - 21 Dec.): A newscaat could provide information that helps you close a business or financial deal. Money worries are relieved by a late afternoon phone call. A great day for running errands. Complex projects require strong self-discipline. Shelve new ideas until a current project is completed. A friend's advice could be overly optimistic; ignore it.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec. - 19 Jan.): Take advantage of a rare opportunity to increase your income from overseas sources. Focus on the future, not the past. A romantic commitment will bring you greater peace of mind. Careless comments could come back to haunt you. Routine tasks will take precedence this afternoon. Write more letters. A loved one shares an important confidence. Be honest with siblings.

AQUARIUS (20 Jan. - 18 Feb.): Someone's behavior starts a chain of events that will help you. A missing item surfaces; put it in a safe place. A reunion with an old friend makes for a happy evening. Study your spending habits to get a better idea of where your money is going. A budget revision will require family members' co-operation. Romance takes a happy turn. Be affectionate.

PISCES (19 Feb. - 20 March): You find people at the top pay is in prospect now. Avoid wasting their time. Do your homework in advance. The boss could surprise you. You and your romantic reach a new understanding. The possibility of deception cannot be ruled out this week. Deal only with trusted, reliable sources. New outlets for your talents. Your quick thinking pays off in your mate in an important project.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN: think clearly and have a good for every action. Outspoken and curious. They welcome other people's opinions and suggestions. They know that there is more one way to approach a problem and want to plot the best course. Other children will recognize these youngsters' leadership and follow their example. The ideal job will make good use of their executive abilities. They are adept at managing people as well as money.

Comics

calvin and hobbes

by WILSON



I LOVE FRESH SNOW.



IT HELPS ME AVOID CALVIN.



WINTER HAS WRAPPED THE LAND IN A SOFT, WHITE BLANKET, AND THE EARTH SLEEPS QUIETLY...



WHOOA! WHOOA! LOOK OUT BELOW! LEAN! LEAN! AUGH!



MY DAY! BAL OUT!



WHY! OH! QUIT BITING! OOF! TAKE THAT!



YOU CALL THAT STEERING? WE ALMOST GOT KILLED! MY FAULT? YEAH, STEP OVER HERE AND SAY THAT YOU STRIPPY DOPE! THAT'S RIGHT, I'M TALKING TO YOU!



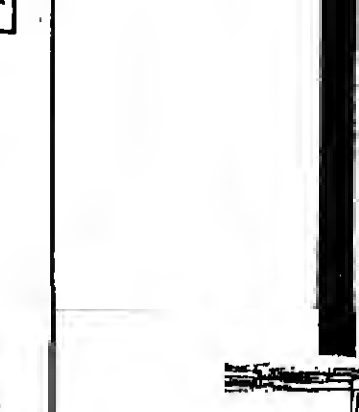
I THINK WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL LIVE IN THE TROPICS.



QUIT IT! QUIT IT! LET GO!



WHEE! LET'S GET THE SLED OUT OF THE TREE AND DO THAT AGAIN!



YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED FOR OUR SLED? A SIREN!



BATMAN: ROBIN, A STREAMLINER? DAY OLD-TIME STUFF CAN'T WORK THESE DAYS! THIS IS DE CENCHOOR! TRUE FACT! THEREFORE I HAD LET JONES HAVE EVOLVED A THOROUGH MODERN SCHEME!



ONE NIGHT LATER... A DISPATCHER'S FAKE BLANCHES AS A MESSAGE COMES CRACKLING OVER THE WIRE...



FRANTIC PHONE CALL BRINGS RAILROAD OFFICIALS - AND BATMAN AND ROBIN...



SHORT SPRINT... AND THERE, HURDLED ON A SIDING... ABANDONED, IS...



HERE WE GO, ROBIN! SURE-RIGHT SMACK INTO TROUBLE AGAIN! I KNOW IT!



THERE GOES OUR LAST LOG! WE CAME AWAY! THE COACH IS ALL WOOD! GRAB THAT AXE AND START CHOPPING!



THE OLD ENGINE PLUNGES FORWARD... THEN GRINDS TO A STOP AT THE MAIN LINE...



THEN... LIKE A GHOST FROM THE PAST, THE IRON HORSE CREEPS UP ON THE STREAMLINER.



NOW ROBIN! JUMP!



THE OLD IRON HORSE DID THE TRICK! THE OLD IRON HORSE DID THE TRICK!